

GOAL! WEEKLY

Season 2: Issue 6
Monday 13 Mar 06: \$3

Supporting all colours and reporting in black and white.



VODAFONE CUP LATEST RESULTS

Kingston 1 - 0 Bulleen
Royals 1 - 1 South
Lions P - P Cannons
Blues 4 - 3 Pines
Knights 0 - 0 Magic
Bergers 2 - 4 Gully
Georgies 2 - 2 Eagles



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Plus ► World Football ► Women's Premier League ► State Three Fixtures and More....



STATE LEAGUE THREE N/W

Fixtures



Round 1

1 Apr 06 3:00PM La Trobe University v Western Eagles Latrobe Uni Lower Playing Fld
1 Apr 06 3:00PM Werribee City v Lalor Galvin Park Reserve
1 Apr 06 3:00PM Ballarat v Albion Rovers Trekardo Park
1 Apr 06 3:00PM Sydenham Park v Geelong Rangers Keilor Lodge Reserve
1 Apr 06 3:00PM North Sunshine Eagles v Sunbury United Larissa Reserve
1 Apr 06 7:00PM Geelong v Corio Stead Park Reserve

Round 2

8 Apr 06 3:00PM Geelong Rangers v North Sunshine Eagles Myers Reserve
8 Apr 06 3:00PM Albion Rovers v Sydenham Park Green Gully Reserve
8 Apr 06 3:00PM Lalor v Ballarat RGC Cook Reserve
8 Apr 06 3:00PM Western Eagles v Werribee City Polish Sports & Rec. Centre
8 Apr 06 3:00PM Sunbury United v Geelong Langama Park
8 Apr 06 3:00PM Corio v La Trobe University Hume Reserve

Round 3

22 Apr 06 3:00PM La Trobe University v Geelong Latrobe Uni Lower Playing Fld
22 Apr 06 3:00PM Werribee City v Corio Galvin Park Reserve
22 Apr 06 3:00PM Ballarat v Western Eagles Trekardo Park
22 Apr 06 3:00PM Sydenham Park v Lalor Keilor Lodge Reserve
22 Apr 06 3:00PM North Sunshine Eagles v Albion Rovers Larissa Reserve
22 Apr 06 3:00PM Geelong Rangers v Sunbury United Myers Reserve

Round 4

29 Apr 06 3:00PM Albion Rovers v Geelong Rangers Green Gully Reserve
29 Apr 06 3:00PM Lalor v North Sunshine Eagles RGC Cook Reserve
29 Apr 06 3:00PM Western Eagles v Sydenham Park Polish Sports & Rec. Centre
29 Apr 06 3:00PM Sunbury United v La Trobe University Langama Park
29 Apr 06 3:00PM Corio v Ballarat Hume Reserve
29 Apr 06 7:00PM Geelong v Werribee City Stead Park Reserve

Round 5

6 May 06 3:00PM Werribee City v La Trobe University Galvin Park Reserve
6 May 06 3:00PM Ballarat v Geelong Trekardo Park
6 May 06 3:00PM Sydenham Park v Corio Keilor Lodge Reserve
6 May 06 3:00PM North Sunshine Eagles v Western Eagles Larissa Reserve
6 May 06 3:00PM Geelong Rangers v Lalor Myers Reserve
6 May 06 3:00PM Albion Rovers v Sunbury United Green Gully Reserve

Round 6

13 May 06 3:00PM Lalor v Albion Rovers RGC Cook Reserve
13 May 06 3:00PM Western Eagles v Geelong Rangers Polish Sports & Rec. Centre
13 May 06 3:00PM Sunbury United v Werribee City Langama Park
13 May 06 3:00PM Corio v North Sunshine Eagles Hume Reserve
13 May 06 3:00PM La Trobe University v Ballarat Latrobe Uni Lower Playing Fld
13 May 06 7:00PM Geelong v Sydenham Park Stead Park Reserve

Round 7

20 May 06 3:00PM Ballarat v Werribee City Trekardo Park
20 May 06 3:00PM Sydenham Park v La Trobe University Keilor Lodge Reserve
20 May 06 3:00PM North Sunshine Eagles v Geelong Larissa Reserve
20 May 06 3:00PM Geelong Rangers v Corio Myers Reserve
20 May 06 3:00PM Albion Rovers v Western Eagles Green Gully Reserve
20 May 06 3:00PM Lalor v Sunbury United RGC Cook Reserve

Round 8

27 May 06 3:00PM Western Eagles v Lalor Polish Sports & Rec. Centre
27 May 06 3:00PM Sunbury United v Ballarat Langama Park
27 May 06 3:00PM Corio v Albion Rovers Hume Reserve
27 May 06 3:00PM La Trobe University v North Sunshine Eagles Latrobe Uni Lower Playing Fld
27 May 06 3:00PM Werribee City v Sydenham Park Galvin Park Reserve
27 May 06 7:00PM Geelong v Geelong Rangers Stead Park Reserve

Round 9

3 Jun 06 3:00PM Sydenham Park v Ballarat Keilor Lodge Reserve
3 Jun 06 3:00PM North Sunshine Eagles v Werribee City Larissa Reserve
3 Jun 06 3:00PM Geelong Rangers v La Trobe University Myers Reserve
3 Jun 06 3:00PM Albion Rovers v Geelong Green Gully Reserve
3 Jun 06 3:00PM Lalor v Corio RGC Cook Reserve
3 Jun 06 3:00PM Western Eagles v Sunbury United Polish Sports & Rec. Centre

Round 10

10 Jun 06 3:00PM Sydenham Park v Sunbury United Keilor Lodge Reserve
10 Jun 06 3:00PM Corio v Western Eagles Hume Reserve
10 Jun 06 3:00PM La Trobe University v Albion Rovers Latrobe Uni Lower Playing Fld
10 Jun 06 3:00PM Werribee City v Geelong Rangers Galvin Park Reserve
10 Jun 06 3:00PM Ballarat v North Sunshine Eagles Trekardo Park
10 Jun 06 3:00PM Geelong v Lalor Stead Park Reserve

Round 11

17 Jun 06 3:00PM North Sunshine Eagles v Sydenham Park Larissa Reserve
17 Jun 06 3:00PM Geelong Rangers v Ballarat Myers Reserve
17 Jun 06 3:00PM Albion Rovers v Werribee City Green Gully Reserve
17 Jun 06 3:00PM Ballarat v La Trobe University RGC Cook Reserve
17 Jun 06 3:00PM Western Eagles v Geelong Polish Sports & Rec. Centre
17 Jun 06 3:00PM Sunbury United v Corio Langama Park

Round 12

24 Jun 06 3:00PM Corio v Geelong Hume Reserve
24 Jun 06 3:00PM Western Eagles v La Trobe University Polish Sports & Rec. Centre
24 Jun 06 3:00PM Lalor v Werribee City RGC Cook Reserve
24 Jun 06 3:00PM Albion Rovers v Ballarat Green Gully Reserve
24 Jun 06 3:00PM Geelong Rangers v Sydenham Park Myers Reserve
24 Jun 06 3:00PM Sunbury United v North Sunshine Eagles Langama Park

Round 13

1 Jul 06 3:00PM North Sunshine Eagles v Geelong Rangers Larissa Reserve
1 Jul 06 3:00PM Sydenham Park v Albion Rovers Keilor Lodge Reserve
1 Jul 06 3:00PM Ballarat v Lalor Trekardo Park
1 Jul 06 3:00PM Werribee City v Western Eagles Galvin Park Reserve
1 Jul 06 3:00PM Geelong v Sunbury United Stead Park Reserve
1 Jul 06 3:00PM La Trobe University v Corio Latrobe Uni Lower Playing Fld

Round 14

8 Jul 06 3:00PM Geelong v La Trobe University Stead Park Reserve
8 Jul 06 3:00PM Corio v Werribee City Hume Reserve
8 Jul 06 3:00PM Western Eagles v Ballarat Polish Sports & Rec. Centre
8 Jul 06 3:00PM Lalor v Sydenham Park RGC Cook Reserve
8 Jul 06 3:00PM Albion Rovers v North Sunshine Eagles Green Gully Reserve
8 Jul 06 3:00PM Sunbury United v Geelong Rangers Langama Park

Round 15

15 Jul 06 3:00PM Geelong Rangers v Albion Rovers Myers Reserve
15 Jul 06 3:00PM North Sunshine Eagles v Lalor Larissa Reserve
15 Jul 06 3:00PM Sydenham Park v Western Eagles Keilor Lodge Reserve
15 Jul 06 3:00PM La Trobe University v Sunbury United Latrobe Uni Lower Playing Fld
15 Jul 06 3:00PM Ballarat v Corio Trekardo Park
15 Jul 06 3:00PM Werribee City v Geelong Galvin Park Reserve

Round 16

22 Jul 06 3:00PM La Trobe University v Werribee City Latrobe Uni Lower Playing Fld
22 Jul 06 3:00PM Geelong v Ballarat Stead Park Reserve
22 Jul 06 3:00PM Corio v Sydenham Park Hume Reserve
22 Jul 06 3:00PM Western Eagles v North Sunshine Eagles Polish Sports & Rec. Centre
22 Jul 06 3:00PM Lalor v Geelong Rangers RGC Cook Reserve
22 Jul 06 3:00PM Sunbury United v Albion Rovers Langama Park

Round 17

29 Jul 06 3:00PM Albion Rovers v Lalor Green Gully Reserve
29 Jul 06 3:00PM Geelong Rangers v Western Eagles Myers Reserve
29 Jul 06 3:00PM Werribee City v Sunbury United Galvin Park Reserve
29 Jul 06 3:00PM North Sunshine Eagles v Corio Larissa Reserve
29 Jul 06 3:00PM Sydenham Park v Geelong Keilor Lodge Reserve
29 Jul 06 3:00PM Ballarat v La Trobe University Trekardo Park

Round 18

5 Aug 06 3:00PM Werribee City v Ballarat Galvin Park Reserve
5 Aug 06 3:00PM La Trobe University v Sydenham Park Latrobe Uni Lower Playing Fld
5 Aug 06 3:00PM Corio v Geelong Rangers Hume Reserve
5 Aug 06 3:00PM Western Eagles v Albion Rovers Polish Sports & Rec. Centre
5 Aug 06 3:00PM Sunbury United v Lalor Langama Park
5 Aug 06 7:00PM Geelong v North Sunshine Eagles Stead Park Reserve

Round 19

19 Aug 06 3:00PM Lalor v Western Eagles RGC Cook Reserve
19 Aug 06 3:00PM Ballarat v Sunbury United Trekardo Park
19 Aug 06 3:00PM Albion Rovers v Corio Green Gully Reserve
19 Aug 06 3:00PM Geelong Rangers v Geelong Myers Reserve
19 Aug 06 3:00PM North Sunshine Eagles v La Trobe University Larissa Reserve
19 Aug 06 3:00PM Sydenham Park v Werribee City Keilor Lodge Reserve

Round 20

26 Aug 06 3:00PM Ballarat v Sydenham Park Trekardo Park
26 Aug 06 3:00PM Werribee City v North Sunshine Eagles Galvin Park Reserve
26 Aug 06 3:00PM La Trobe University v Geelong Rangers Latrobe Uni Lower Playing Fld
26 Aug 06 3:00PM Corio v Lalor Hume Reserve
26 Aug 06 3:00PM Sunbury United v Western Eagles Langama Park
26 Aug 06 7:00PM Geelong v Albion Rovers Stead Park Reserve

Round 21

2 Sep 06 3:00PM Sunbury United v Sydenham Park Langama Park
2 Sep 06 3:00PM Western Eagles v Corio Polish Sports & Rec. Centre
2 Sep 06 3:00PM Albion Rovers v La Trobe University Green Gully Reserve
2 Sep 06 3:00PM Geelong Rangers v Werribee City Myers Reserve
2 Sep 06 3:00PM North Sunshine Eagles v Ballarat Larissa Reserve
2 Sep 06 3:00PM Lalor v Geelong RGC Cook Reserve

Round 22

9 Sep 06 3:00PM Sydenham Park v North Sunshine Eagles Keilor Lodge Reserve
9 Sep 06 3:00PM Ballarat v Geelong Rangers Trekardo Park
9 Sep 06 3:00PM Werribee City v Albion Rovers Galvin Park Reserve
9 Sep 06 3:00PM La Trobe University v Lalor Latrobe Uni Lower Playing Fld
9 Sep 06 3:00PM Geelong v Western Eagles Stead Park Reserve
9 Sep 06 3:00PM Corio v Sunbury United Hume Reserve

Match Grounds

La Trobe Uni Lower playing Field: Kingsbury Drive Car Park #2, Bundoora (19 E8)
Galvin Park Reserve: Parklands Gve, Werribee (205 G3)
Trekardo Park: Pleasant Street, Ballarat
Keilor Lodge Reserve: Robertsons Road, Sydenham (3F 10)
Larissa Reserve: Larissa Road, St Albans (26 E2)
Stead Park Reserve: Station Street, Corio (224 D9)
Myers Reserve: Rollins Road, Bell Post Hill (223 C12)
Green Gully Reserve: Green Gully Road, Keilor Downs (14 E8)
RGC Cook Reserve: 2 Robinvale Ave, Thomastown (8 C5)
Polish Sport Centre: 19 Carrington Drive, Albion (26 B8)
Langama Park: Mitchells Lane, Sunbury (381 K6)
Hume Reserve: Thompson Road, Geelong North (225 H5)

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Goal! Weekly is published every Monday by
Alimental Enterprises Pty Ltd
Po Box 142
Port Melbourne, VIC, 3207
Phone: 9645-1440

Printed by
Streamline Press
155 Johnstone St
Fitzroy, VIC, 3065

Distributed by
All Day Distribution Pty Ltd
Po Box 42
North Carlton, VIC, 3054

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club gets its copy of Goal! Weekly.

Contact the office direct on 9645 1440

BIG MATCH POSTPONED

The highly anticipated Vodafone Cup round five match between Preston Lions and Oakleigh Cannons was postponed in the days leading up to weekend.

After a pitch inspection last Thursday morning at Preston Lion's BT Connor Reserve, the FFV found the playing surface 'unfit' for Saturday's intended Vodafone Cup fixture.

The match has now been rescheduled for Easter Monday.

Incidentally, South Melbourne and one of the league's early pacesetters, Melbourne Knights also play on the Easter Monday in a match that completes this week's round six fixture list.

While the rest of the Vodafone Cup will be honouring the religious long weekend end break, four of the competition's biggest clubs will turn out and go head to head in two of the choice fixtures of the local football calendar.

Fans who decide not to head off out of Melbourne for that particular long weekend are now spoilt for choice to grab their weekly dose of football fix afterall.

Preston Lions have issued the following statement from President Chris Todorovski.

"It is a minor setback but our primary concern in all of this has been the safety of the players. We have been working with the Darebin City Council to fix the situation however there was no guarantee that the ground would be ready in time for Saturday's game."

New match details are as follows:
Vodafone Cup Rescheduled Fixture

- Round 5 -

Monday 17th April 2006

Preston Lions

V

Oakleigh Cannons

Kick-off: 1pm/3pm

Venue: BT Connor Reserve

MEL: 18-B2



WIN A SOCCER BALL!

Thanks to our friends at Melbourne's newest soccer store, Soccer Scene here's your chance to win a Patrick soccer ball.

All you have to do to win is name

any football player with the christian name "Patrick" along with his club's name.

First correct entry sent to:

competition@goalweekly.com wins.

TURNBALL SIGNS FOR KNIGHTS



After a string of impressive displays between the sticks for Vodafone Cup newcomers Kingston City, goalkeeper Michael Turnball has landed himself a contract in next season's A-League

competition.

The NZ Knights confirmed they have won the battle for the signature of the former Australian U20 and U23 goalkeeper, with 24 year old Turnball enticed to the Knights following his return from Europe.

Turnbull will join the club in time for pre-season training in June but will in the meantime continue playing for Kingston. Turnbull recently returned from a spell in Belgium with Standard Leige with work permit issues preventing a longer term stay in Europe.

High-flying Turnball's baptism into Vodafone Cup football raised the ire of the Georgies in round one earlier this year when his late arrival from Sydney delayed the kick-off but to all his waiting teammates the wait was definitely worth it. Turnball has been instrumental for Kingston so far this season and it will be interesting to see how the team deals with his absence.

The 1.92m keeper's impressive performances for Kingston attracted interest from other clubs overseas and in Australia before he decided to put pen to paper with the Knights and is excited about the next stage in his career.

"Given the season just gone it was imperative that I discussed future plans with the Knights and understood the aims of the club if I was to commit to them. Given today's announcement it is obvious I was more than happy with the work going on at the club and the plans in place for the second A-League season. I am looking forward to beginning work at the Knights and helping build a successful club that the fans can be proud of."



In name and nature. Micheal about to turn this ball around the post in an acrobatic display against Oakleigh in round 4.

SHORT PASSES

LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP
FOR GOAL! WEEKLY
5-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT

The 2006 Goal! Weekly 5-a-Side Tournament, hosted by Riversdale Soccer Club, is being held on Sunday March 26th at Frog Hollow Reserve, from 10am.

This is great way to have a fun day with your friends, work colleagues or teammates, and will be an excellent social day of football.

All teams are guaranteed at least 4 games over the day. Cost is \$200 per team, so with up to 10 players in a squad, the cost is as low as \$20 per person for a full days action.

To enter, complete the entry form on page 26 of this edition of Goal! Weekly or visit www.riversdalesc.com.au.

But hurry, entries close this week.

BANYULE CITY WINS DIAMOND VALLEY CUP

Banyule City won the Diamond Valley Cup at Partington Flats.

High temperatures made it difficult for all teams but the standard of play was a credit to all participants.

Banyule accounted for Sunbury and Diamond Valley 'A' on their way to meeting North Coburg in the Final.

North Coburg disposed of Moreland and Diamond Valley 'B'.

Banyule took charge of the Final from the word go and ran out comfortable winners by 3-1.

EASTERN LIONS PRE-SEASON TOURNAMENT

Eastern Lions are hosting a pre-season tournament with the next round of matches to be staged next weekend. Details are as follows.

Cranbourne Comets v D'nong Thunder
Saturday March 18th, 2.00 pm- Pitch 1

Eastern Lions v Doncaster Rovers
Saturday March 18th, 4.00 pm- Pitch 1

Cranbourne Comets v Doncaster Rovers
Saturday March 25th, 2.00 pm- Pitch 1

Eastern Lions v Dandenong Thunder
Saturday March 25th 4.00 pm- Pitch 1

All to be held at Eastern Lions
Gardiners' Reserve
Sixth Avenue
Burwood Vic 3125
Melway ref 60 j8



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Monday 13 March



VODAFONE CUP

DETAILS



ROUND FIVE DETAILS

KINGSTON CITY 1 - 0 BULLEEN ZEBRAS

Venue: The Grange Reserve Friday 10th March Crowd: 1,100 (HT 1-0)

GOALS: M. Curcija 26th min.

YELLOW CARDS: S.Bell.

RED CARDS: None.

KINGSTON: M.Turnbull, N.Tolios, S.Iosifidis, C.Konstans, M.Stergiopoulos, T.Brodie (C.Hermosilla 82nd), A.Kiratzoglou, J.Di Iorio (N.Papadopoulos 70th), J.Spiteri, M.Curcija.

ZEBRAS: T.Kovar, A.Drakos (F.Lamanda 75th), D.Tartaglia, S.Drakos, R.Antoniadis, S.Martin (P.Kotsopoulos 46th), S.Bell, B.Harbinson, H.Armenian (N.Lazarevski 70th), R.Diacio, B.Celeviski.

ESSENDON ROYALS 1 - 1 SOUTH MELB

Venue: Veneto Social Club Friday 10th March Crowd: 1,000 (HT 1-0)

GOALS: H.Fa'Arodo (ER) 17th min, G.Tzirtis (SM) 53rd min.

YELLOW CARDS: S.Fitzsimmons 24th, V.Natsioulas 79th.

RED CARDS: None.

ROYALS: M.Sutalo, N.Thomas, S.Pir, N.Schwal (C.Miles 84th), L.Catalano (M.Mazzarella 36th), F.Catalano (J.Youseff 75th), D.Pilic, M.Catalano, M.Medjedovic, H.Fa'Arodo, S.Fitzsimmons.

SOUTH: C.Dimitropoulos, A.Tsonis, G.Tzirtis (P.Koutsopoulos 68th), J.Salley, R.Tavsanicioglou, T.Baser, V.Natsioulas (G. De Nittis 84th), F.De Moraes, V.Coveney, K.Nelson, S.MacNicol.

*PRESTON LIONS P - P OAKLEIGH CANNONS

Venue: BT Connor Reserve Saturday 11th March Crowd:

*Match postponed to to unfit pitch.

FAWKNER/WHITTLESEA 4 - 3 F'STON PINES

Venue: Epping Stadium Sunday 12th March Crowd: 500 (HT 2-1)

GOALS: Refer to match report

YELLOW CARDS:

RED CARDS: None.

BLUES: N/A

PINES: N/A

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 0 - 0 ALTONA MAGIC

Venue: Knights Stadium Monday 12th March Crowd: 3000 (HT 0-0)

GOALS:

YELLOW CARDS:

RED CARDS: None.

KNIGHTS: A.Cagali, T.Milardovic, N.Antic, R.Casey, C.Elvin, M.Maisano, J.Kozic (H.Matkovic), G.Talevski, D.Matkovic, L.Slater (Barisic), N.Caldwell

MAGIC: B.Jevdevic, L.Osman, D.Mladanovic, K.Delev, K.Delev, A.Opazo, S.Mrkela, S.Becvinovski, V.Trpceviski, I.Razov, I.Arsovski, P.Cergovski, D.Vasilevski, I.Koleviski.

SUNSHINE GEORGIES 2 - 2 R'MOND EAGLES

Venue: Chaplin Reserve Sunday 12th March Crowd: 800 (HT 0-1)

GOALS: B. Beni (RE) 8, D Visevic (RE) 80, T Neceski 9SG) 49, T Waterson (SG) 83

YELLOW CARDS:

RED CARDS: None.

GEORGIES: M. John, F. Richards (C. Platt 64th), A. Gauci-Seddon, C. Azzopardi, T. Waterson, D. Delic, E. Muscat, B. Gilmour, I. Filipovic (J. Cvetanoski 76th), S. Kovacevic, T. Neceski

EAGLES: N. Crossley, S. Webster, S. Burton, J. Baskerville, B. Beni, J. Rajher, S. Sivic (S. Rusmir 39th), T. Celentano, D. Visevic, G. Hockless, V. Korcarevski (S. Rechepi 63rd)

HEIDELBERG UTD 2 - 4 GREEN GULLY

Venue: Olympic Village Sunday 12th March Crowd: 1,500 (HT 0-2)

GOALS: B.Vassallo (GG) 19, 92, A.Vargas (GG) 42pen, M.Sanders 86, t.Ouliaris (HU) 55, N.Marinos (HU) 78

YELLOW CARDS:

RED CARDS: None.

BERGERS: L. Acevski, D. Jones, P. Roberts, L. Tsomerkas (A.Gjumi 55th), R. Liporoti (Y. Yusuf 54th), T. Ouliaris, N. Sabljak, N. Marinos, S. Parissos, A. Westervelt, E. Vassiliadis

GULLY: P. Schwalger, R. Vargas, D. Fak, Z. Markovski, J. Fleming (A. Marth 85th), B. Vassallo, J. Nikolic (M. Sanders 67th), R. Ollerton, D. Natsevski, A. Vargas, L. Lapsansky (M. Batnovic 75th)

VODAFONE CUP TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Knights	5	3	2	0	8	2	11
Magic	5	3	2	0	9	6	11
Cannons	4	3	1	0	7	3	10
Kingston	5	3	1	1	8	4	10
South	5	3	1	1	6	5	10
Pines	5	2	1	2	7	8	7
Blues	5	2	0	3	9	9	6
Royals	5	1	2	2	7	8	5
Gully	5	1	2	2	7	7	5
Eagles	5	1	2	2	6	8	5
Georgies	5	1	1	3	6	7	4
Bergers	5	1	1	3	8	10	4
Zebbras	5	1	1	3	5	10	4
Preston	4	0	1	3	5	11	1

MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL - ROUND FOUR



BULLEEN ZEBRAS 1 - 4 FAWKNER/WHITTLESEA



RECCHIA SHINES AS ZEBRAS FALTER

A virtuoso performance by Carl Recchia led the Blues to a remarkable 4-1 victory over Bulleen Zebras in Round 4 of the Vodafone Cup on Monday the 27th of February.

The recently signed Recchia turned on an outstanding display to score a hat trick, including a goal of the year contender, in his comeback Vodafone Cup appearance, as the former A-League player's individual display overshadowed the return of Ricky Diaco and Carl Recchia to the Veneto Club, as Fawkner overcame a desperately unlucky Bulleen side to post a flattering result over the 2004 Premiers.

Bulleen were firing early as Fawkner struggled to keep pace with the home side, however, the Blues created the contest's first scoring chance as a corner by captain Tony Sterjovski curled perilously close to goal before Tomas Kovar intervened. Moments later, Sterjovski again came close as he latched on to the ball before firing just wide.

The influence of the newly recruited A-League trio of Recchia, Diaco and Celeski, was undeniable as they were heavily involved early on. Former Perth Glory attacker Celeski soon came close to taking the lead for the Zebras when he fired high and wide following build up play between Diaco and Ben Harbinson.

Steve Martin was solid all evening and in the 37th minute he played a great cross that found Harbinson, who rose high in the area only to be denied by a fantastic reflex save by the Blues 'keeper Gerohristodoulou. Despite Bulleen's early dominance, Fawkner soon took the lead against the run of play when Carl Recchia latched on to a ball played into the area before chipping over Zebras custodian Kovar in his long awaited return to the Vodafone Cup. The Zebras had a chance to equalise minutes later when Ce-

leski played a ball wide to Diaco who jinxed past a defender before firing wide with his wrong foot.

Fawkner jumped out of the blocks in the second stanza and they soon doubled their advantage to a slick well worked move when Angelovski stormed through the middle of the park before playing the ball out wide to Sapazovski. He proceeded to pass the ball first time into the area to Recchia who showed his class as he placed the ball past an outstretched Kovar.

Three minutes later, Recchia secured his hat trick with a goal of the year contender as he flicked a ball past a defender to himself before firing a volley from 20 yards out into the top right hand corner of the goal.

Former Vodafone Cup Gold Medalist Ricky Diaco had proved ineffectual early, before he led the Zebras charge in an attempted fightback, when he played a quick ball one two with Billy Celeski before the former Australian youth international curled the ball just high.

Diaco once again was involved in the play when he played a quick ball wide to Steve Martin, but the Victorian representative was only able to fire the ball into the impressive Blues custodian Gerohristodoulou. Bulleen's onslaught on to the Blues goal soon bore fruit as Diaco streamed through the middle of the park before playing a brilliant through ball that found Hamlet Armenian who finished truly securing his second goal in as many weeks.

Bulleen continued to fight gallantly as a cross by Ari Drakos found Harbinson, but in the 88th, Fawkner completed the rout as a corner by Tony Sterjovski found Mark Tsirolas unmarked at the back post who headed home Fawkner's fourth of the evening.

By Simon Chiarelli

ROUND SIX FIXTURES

OAKLEIGH CANNONS V

ESSENDON ROYALS

Jack Edwards Reserve,
Oakleigh Mel: 69 H9
Friday 17th March
KO 8.15pm

RICHMOND EAGLES V

HEIDELBERG UNITED

Kevin Bartlett Reserve,
Richmond Mel: 59 A1
Friday 17th March
KO 8.15pm

FRANKSTON PINES V

KINGSTON CITY

Monterey Reserve,
Frankston Mel: 99 K8
Saturday 18th March
KO 5pm

ALTONA MAGIC V

SUNSHINE GEORGIES

Paisley Park Reserve,
Altona Mel: 55 C5
Saturday 12th March
KO 7.30pm

GREEN GULLY V

FAWKNER/WHITTLESEA

Green Gully Reserve,
Keilor Mel: 14 E8
Sunday 19th March
KO 6pm

BULLEEN ZEBRAS V

PRESTON LIONS

Veneto Social Club,
Bulleen Mel: 32 D9
Monday 13th March
KO 8.15pm

SOUTH MELBOURNE V

MELB KNIGHTS

Bob Jane Stadium,
Albert Park Mel: 2K F6
*To be played on
Easter Monday 17th April
KO 3pm



VODAFONE CUP

Round 5



KNIGHTS AND MAGIC RUE MISSED CHANCES



TOP OF THE TABLE CLASH ENDS IN SCORELESS DRAW

Melbourne Knights 0 - Altona Magic 0

A pulsating 0-0 draw between the Melbourne Knights and Altona Magic left both of the high-flying clubs undefeated after five rounds. The warm weather didn't deter fans of both sides, with a healthy crowd of over 3,000.

The game began well for the home side when a smart, three-man move between Dario Matkovic, Luke Slater and Craig Elvin culminated with a dangerous cross by Elvin, which narrowly evaded the oncoming Matkovic.

Elvin was again in the thick of the action when in the ninth minute his neat turn and shot crept wide of Bojo Jevdjovic in the Altona goal.

It took the visitors until the 14th minute to create their first opportunity of the match, which came after a neat one-two between Kole Delev and Sash Becvinovski resulted in the latter ambitiously attempted to chip Knights keeper Adrian Cagalj.

The Knights responded in the 22nd minute when Josip Kozic found Nathan Caldwell with a well placed cross, but the Knights top scorer headed wide of the post.

It took Altona until the 35th minute to respond, but they did so twice in quick succession. Firstly Becvinovski found Alfonso Opazo with a clever cross, but his strike partner hit his shot straight at Cagalj. Altona again came close when Becvinovski dispossessed Knights stopper Ryan Casey, before playing in his team mate Ivan Razov, whose shot flew just past the post.

The visitors continued to pile on the pressure, and when former Knight Tomi Razov's deep cross found Koce Delev, the



Photos by Steve Starek

Catch me if you can!
Knight's Dario Matkovic
makes a run for it.

home side were let off by a poor header by the Magic striker.

It was the home side that created the best opportunity of the half when in the final minute of the half, a fine Kozic cross was met by Caldwell, whose bullet header was directed straight at Jevdjovic. The Altona keeper parried the header into Craig Elvin's, but his shot was deflected back to Caldwell. The Knights striker's attempted header was cleared by the Magic defence for a corner.

The second half saw Altona start well and should have taken the lead, when Koce Delev's header was brilliantly saved by Cagalj in the Knights goal.

A minute later, the Knight's should have punished Altona's poor finishing, but Luke Slater was guilty of a glaring miss when a poor piece of keeping by Jevdjovic allowed him to shoot from close range.

The Knights continued to penetrate Altona and should have scored in the 62nd minute, when a clever three-man move ended with Slater's shot being expertly saved by Jevdjovic.

Altona's chances came mainly from dangerous crosses, which were cleared by the Knights solid defence. Left winger Tomi Razov was the main protagonist for the visitors, as he delivered several fine crosses.

It was the Knights however that created the best opportunities in the final 15 minutes of the match. Home midfielder Kozic found Caldwell, who in turn set up Slater, but the unlucky striker got stage fright and shot his shot from a few yards out straight into Jevdjovic's feet.

The final few minutes saw a barrage by the home side as chances for Caldwell, Dario Matkovic and substitute Andrew Barisic went begging.

Firstly Matkovic cut across his man and shot straight at Jevdjovic, who was leading a charmed life in the Altona goal.

Caldwell was next to try his luck, but his header from a Matkovic cross flew just wide.

Joe Biskic
Coach, Melbourne Knights:

"It was pretty hard and I felt sorry for the players because the first half was pretty hot. I would say it was a pretty equal game in the first half.... Altona gave us a run for our money.... But in the second half we had about 4 or 5 good chances and I have to be disappointed that we didn't finish them off. In the end I suppose I'm pretty happy that my defence stood firm and we didn't lose the game."

Ken Murphy
Coach, Altona Magic:

"I think it was a good match.... I think overall, a draw was a fair result. We were good for going ahead in the first half and then I think we were lucky to get out of it alive in the second half. Overall, in the end considering the conditions on top of that as well I was very happy to come away with a point."



Extreme heat calls for a drink break at Knights Stadium

Photos by Steve Starek

A sharp cross by Barisic was perfectly met by his strike partner Caldwell, whose thunderous close range strike cannoned back off the post.

Barisic was next to try his luck, but his tame effort went straight to Jevdjovic.

The final chance of the game came in the final seconds as Marco Maisano manufactured a chance for Caldwell, but he shot straight at Jevdjovic, leaving the home side to ponder their misfortune.

By Josip Loncaric

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Monday 13 March



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Round 5



EAGLES LET LEAD SLIP YET AGAIN



FOUR GOALS SHARED AT CHAPLIN RESERVE

Sunshine Georgies 2 - Richmond Eagles 2



The scores finished deadlocked at 2-2 between Sunshine Georgies and Richmond Eagles after an intense encounter played under extreme heat at Chaplin Reserve.

In a game that began in stifling heat, Richmond came out inspired and was on fire while it seemed that the home side was the one affected by the conditions. The home side received a shock as Richmond took a mere six minutes to open the scoring when James Baskerville got behind the Sunshine defence and crossed the ball to an unmarked Brendan Beni. Beni didn't hesitate and rifled the ball home with a pin point header, handing his side a deserved lead.

Both teams bottled the rest of the opening half up but it was the Eagles who looked far more dangerous and who basically dic-

tated the pace while easily undoing anything that Sunshine threw at them. Richmond was quite unlucky not to have added more to the score.

As the half time whistle blew and the teams walked off it was Chris Taylor with all the work to do to lift his troops for the second half. Taylor read his team the riot act during the half time break and told them in no uncertain terms that he expected a much better performance in the second half.

The half started positively for Sunshine as new recruit Fidel Richards surged into the penalty box and was upended by a Richmond defender. The referee had no hesitation in pointing to the spot. Up stepped Tony Neceski and he coolly beat Crossley in the Richmond goal to make it 1-1. Dusko Delic then wasted the chance

of the game when he shot high over the bar squandering a shot that merely needed to be tapped in.

A sweeping move in the 80th minute saw the ball go from the Richmond keeper's hands and in a flowing move end up with Daniel Visevic unmarked. Visevic angled a shot across to Martin John to restore the lead for the visitors. However the celebrations were short lived when just three minutes later parity was restored after Dusko Delic made a surging run along the far touchline and whipped in a cross which was met by Trent Waterson. Waterson beat the keep at his near post and much to the celebrations leveled the ledger.

The game played out and a draw was a fair result with Richmond having much of the first half and Sunshine holding their own in the second half. Sunshine Travels to Altona Next Saturday night Whist Richmond hosts Heidelberg Utd.

By Reuben Schembri



Brendan Beni celebrates after opening the scoring

Chris Taylor
Coach, Georgies:

Chris Taylor – "We had a shocking first half, probably the worst we've played all season. Second half, we came right back into it and by the end of the game I suppose the draw probably suited both teams. Both teams had good passages of play and I think we deserved a point in the end."

Dean Hennessey
Coach, Richmond:

"Gutted! Absolutely Gutted! After leading twice, we've let it slip once again with just 5 minutes to go. The heat was murder today..... I suppose upon reflection on the game over 90 minutes, you could maybe say a draw was a fair result..... But after leading twice it's pretty guts wrenching.... We've done enough to win but we haven't taken advantage of it. We're certainly good enough to be in this league and we'll get better as each week goes by."



Action from the
Sunshine
v
Richmond match.
Photos by Daniel Flis



VODAFONE CUP

Round 5


GULLY TURNS THE HEAT UP ON BERGERS



GOAL FEST AT THE VILLAGE SEES CHAMPS NOTCH UP A VICTORY

Heidelberg Utd 0 - Green Gully2



In a replay of their 2004 Premier League final, visitors Green Gully maintained their domination over home team Heidelberg Warriors, in stifling conditions at the Olympic village yesterday. A ten man Heidelberg team briefly threatened to upstage Gully with a second half revival before eventually succumbing 4-2.

Gully Striker Brendan Vassallo again enjoyed rich pickings bagging two goals. Andy Vargas and Matthew Sanders scored one apiece.

Starting with a 3-5-2 formation, Gully seemed to settle the quicker of the two sides.

They maintained possession more effectively than their hosts, and were able to apply attacking pressure.

They almost scored in the 18th minute when Gully midfielder Ryan Ollerton threaded a pass into the box for Brandon Vassallo to run onto behind the Berger's defence. His shot was heading goal wards but Bergers' keeper Lou Acevski did well to turn the ball around the post for a corner. From the resulting Andy Vargas corner, an unchallenged Vassallo header from inside the six yard box gave Acevski no chance.

Heidelberg skipper Eric Vasiliadis went close to equalizing soon after when he took

a free kick whilst Gully keeper Pasi Schwalger was still organising his defensive wall. The shot flashed narrowly past the far post. Gully were more composed on the ball, and their midfield managed to link effectively with their forwards. Nikolic and Vassallo. Andy Vargas was willing to try his luck from all angles going close with a volley in the 30th minute. He followed with an audacious bicycle kick from the edge of the box the 39th minute.

Andy Vargas then doubled Gully's advantage in the 43rd minute with a more conventional shot from a spot kick after referee Lewis Giusseffi awarded a penalty against Heidelberg defender Robert Liparotti for pulling back his opponent Joel Nikolic.

Heidelberg's chances went from bad to worse early in the second half when striker Saranti Parissos received a red card for his involvement in an altercation.

Heidelberg coach Phil Stubbins responded by replacing defenders Leigh Tsoumerkas and Liparotti with the attacking Yusuf Yusuf and midfielder Albert Gjuni. A ten man Heidelberg seemed to pick up the tempo after surviving another close shave when Andy Vargas missed a good chance to add his second in the 67th minute.

Soon after Bergers midfielder Tony Ouliaris gave his team a lifeline when he headed home a Nick Marinos cross, after Marinos charged down a Schwalger clearance.

Yusuf then provided a moment of magic when he went past two Gully defenders, then cut the ball back from the byline for Marinos to strike home the equalizer.

Meanwhile the heat was taking its toll as Gully brought on substitutes Matthew Sanders for Nikolic and Michael Batinovic for Lubo Lapsansky.

Yusuf was creating havoc in the Gully defence and the excited Heidelberg fans urged their team forward in search of a winner.

However Gully had no intention of giving them cause for celebration and in the 41st minute, the dangerous Andy Vargas received a Vassallo pass down the left flank. Vargas shaped to shoot on goal but cut the ball across to Sanders who kept his composure to finish well from 12 metres.

The Bergers pressed forward in search of an equalizer but were caught out once more when Batinovic played Vassallo through with just the keeper to beat. Vassallo made no mistake to ensure the Gully's first victory on the 2006 season.

By George Stogiannou

Phil Stubbins
Coach, Heidelberg Utd:

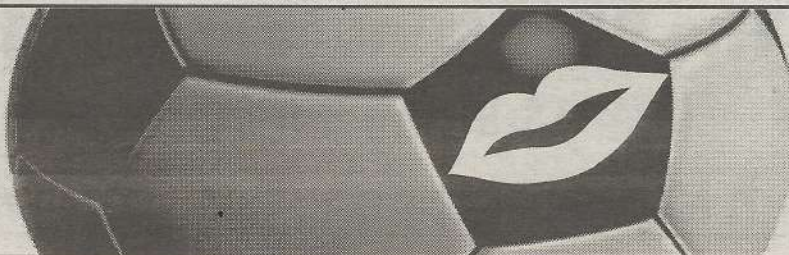
"We're making too many mistakes defensively.... I don't mind if it happens when you don't talk about them but this problem seems to be happening week after week after week. We knew what Green Gully was all about and to their credit; they did exactly what we thought they'd do. At the end of the day, I'm very disappointed with my boys and we're just not strong enough mentally."

Andrew Marth
Coach, Green Gully:

"We made two fundamental errors by two experienced players which put us under a some unnecessary pressure especially after going 2-0 up which I thought we deserved. We showed enough character in the last ten minutes to score two goals when the game should have been wrapped up a lot earlier on."



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VODAFONE CUP

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SEVEN GOAL THRILLER EPPING STADIUM



BLUES HIT FOUR FOR SECOND GAME IN A ROW

Fawkner/Whittlesea 4 - Frankston Pines 3

It seems Fawkner/Whittlesea Blues have turned the corner by notching up consecutive wins after defeating Frankston Pines in a nail-biting 4-3 encounter at Epping Stadium on Sunday night.

In sweltering conditions Pines struck first with an eighth minute goal from West Australian recruit Andreas Olivera who thundered home a Nick Waite pass from the edge of the box.

However Pines switched off after the goal, allowing the Blues to dictate terms for much of the remainder of the half.

After three near misses, including a sitter from Victory midfielder Carl Recchia, the Blues finally found the net in the 37th minute after Recchia's corner found the head of Mark Tsiolas to level the account 1-1.

Pines worked themselves back into the game toward the end of the half but the Blues pressed on and were rewarded just prior to the break.

The Recchia/Tsiolas combination again proved lethal for Pines with Recchia beating the Pines' defenders before cutting back to the approaching Tsiolas who made no mistake. This took the half time tally to 2-1 in favour of the Blues.

The second half was a livelier affair

with both sides lifting the tempo.

In what could have been the play of the day Tsiolas switched to Gregory Lombardo who superbly crossed to back in to Jurica Siljanovski whose shot went just wide of the upright.

When Nana Addo replaced Gregory Lombardo the move almost paid immediate dividends with Addo volleying from close range only to be blocked by Pines keeper Keron McIvor.

Immediately after, on the counter attack, Pines drew level after a player was fouled by the Blues goalkeeper Kyriaros Gerohristodoulou. Pines captain Cameron Leopold easily finished, sending Gerohristodoulou the wrong way to equalise 2-2.

Pines then went ahead in the 75 minute after Anastasios Pisonis beat the Blues offside trap and the keeper to take the tally to 3-2 in favour of the Pines.

The tempo lifted again with both sides digging in until the Blues were awarded a free kick 20 meters from goal.

Tony Sterjovski made no mistake as he drove the Blues towards victory by equalising 3-3 in the 88th minute.

It was the unmarked substitute Nana Addo who sealed Pines' fate and brought home the bacon for the improving Blues.

Addo finished expertly after the ball came in from the left to the cheers of his teammates in the 89th minute. Final score 4-3 to the Blues.

By Jason Gillick

Tony Ciancer
Ass Coach, Fawkner Blues:

"It was a great spectacle for the crowd....End to end stuff....Under trying conditions which made it difficult for both sides, we could've gone 3 or 4 up but poor finishing unfortunately let us down and let Frankston back in to the game. The game really could've gone either way and it would be fair to say we kind of did a 'Houdini' act today."

Craig Lewis
Coach, Frankston Pines :

"If we can play like we do in spells for a full game, it's going to be very hard for other teams to stop us..... we need to learn to play like I know we can for longer periods in the game. At this level when you make mistakes, you get punished and that seemed to be happening quite too often for my liking. There are some positives to come out of our performance today but it's a case of doing it all the time and not switching it on and off. We scored 3 goals away from home which I am happy about but defensively we need to work a lot smarter."

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Round 5



CURCIJA DOES THE JOB WITH A "VAN BASTEN"



REDS UNBEATEN AT HOME, ZEBRAS BEGIN STREAK OF THEIR OWN

Kingston City 1 - Bulleen Zebras 0



Livewire Joe Di Iorio: Had his fair share of chances in front of goal on Friday night.

Photo by Daryl Kennedy

Kingston City continued their rich vein of form thanks to a magical 35th minute strike from leading marksman Michael Curcija, to continue their undefeated record on Friday nights. The Reds produced a professional display against Michael Michalakopoulos's Bulleen Zebras and never looked troubled in front of a modest crowd to win 1-0 at home.

The Reds were missing influential defender Con Anthopoulos who was away on his honeymoon, which meant the Reds switched to a 3-5-2 formation giving a starting birth to winger Todd Brodie on the right, whilst the Zebras started with a flat back four and fielded both of their

new A-League signings Billy Celeski and lone striker Ricky Diaco.

Friday's night match kicked off at a pulsating pace, with Joey Di Iorio being the danger man for the Reds by showcasing his speed and back of tricks. Di Iorio was causing serious headaches for the shaky Zebras defence and should have scored as early as the 2nd minute; however his shot narrowly skimmed passed the right hand upright. Minutes later it was the Zebras number one Tomas Kovar who kept his side in the match, when he brilliantly denied "Joey" after the Kingston midfielder was released clean through on goals.

Bulleen's main outlet was former Melbourne Victory fringe player Ricky Diaco, who despite his high work rate and mastery on the ball was unable to find a way past NZ Knights bound Michael Turnbull and a well organised Reds defence. Diaco seemed dangerous all evening however lacked support going forward.

The Reds ability to turn defence into attack through quick and astute passing has proved to be the key ingredient to the success of the early season form. This match was no different and in the 35th minute following some defensive pressure, Michael Curcija again displayed his predatory instincts and superbly volleyed home from an acute angle after veteran captain Joe Spiteri supplied an instinctive cross with his back turned to goal.

Michalakopoulos made several attacking changes during the second stanza in search of an equaliser. The tireless Diaco who spent the majority of the second half in the centre of the park thought he found the equaliser when he found space and deftly slotted it past an outstretched Turnbull. His jubilation was short lived when he was contentiously ruled off-side by the linesman, during Bulleen's best spell of the match.

Despite the scare Kingston kept their shape and marched on with their polished display to secure the spoils. The Reds were the better side in the latter stages and rarely looked troubled at the back. Led by the maturing Nick Tolios the back three gelled well and produced a solid performance. Kingston almost snatched a second late in the match when substitute Nick Papadopoulos was denied by arguably the best save of the season from Kovar who somehow who swatted the rasping effort which seemed destined to clean the spider webs from the top corner.

Kingston coach George Katsakis will be pleased with another win at home to claim three valuable points coinciding with their third clean sheet of the season. In contrast Michalakopoulos will be disappointed with their third loss of the season which leaves them in early relegation trouble.

By Chris priftis

George Katsakis
Coach, Kingston City:

Where do we start! They way we opened in the first twenty minutes I thought it was going to be a stroll in the park. We created four or five great opportunities but once we got the opening goal we seemed to take our foot off the pedal...and it seems to be becoming a bit of a bad habit lately. To the boys credit we showed character to keep our third clean sheet in five games after Bulleen worked their way back into the game. All in all I was satisfied with our defensive stability and quite happy to take another three points.

Michael Michalakopoulos,
Coach, Bulleen Zebras :

Unavailable for comment



Photo by Daryl Kennedy

Monday 13 March

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VODAFONE CUP

Round 5


FA' ARODO SHINES AND SCORES IN ROYAL DEBUT



'KEEPER SUTALO FRUSTRATES A COVENEY LEAD SOUTH

Essendon Royals 1 - South Melbourne 1

A valiant Essendon Royals outfit has withstood an early South Melbourne surge to record a 1-1 draw against the four-time national Champions in an exciting round five encounter of the Vodafone Cup on Friday night.

In front of a crowd of approximately 1000, the Royals opened the scoring thanks to new signing Henry Fa'Arodo with a superb individual effort in the first half. His strike was cancelled out minutes into the second stanza when George Tzirtis finished brilliantly earning a point for the visitors.

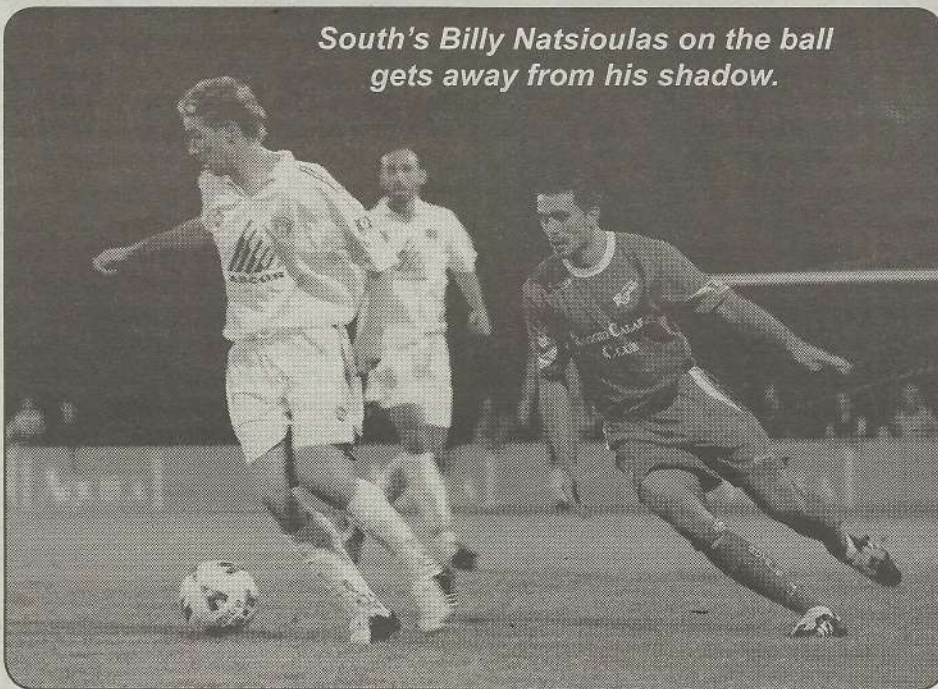
South dominated proceedings early as they caught an off guard Royals on the back foot. Brazilian midfielder Fernando De Moraes starred early for South as he terrorized the Royals back three with surging runs deep into South's attacking third. He soon set up South's first scoring chance as Moraes played a dangerous through ball to Trinidadian Kevin Nelson who moved in on goal before striking just wide of the mark for the visitors.

Nelson again had a chance to open the scoring as a ball by Scott MacNicol just evaded the powerful attacker when a goal beckoned, before minutes later Moraes twisted and turned on the edge of the area before unleashing a thunderbolt that was parried away by the Royals outstanding custodian Sutalo.

Fa'Arodo scores on debut.



South's Billy Natsioulas on the ball gets away from his shadow.



The Royals were lucky to come away unscathed in the 19th minute as a shot by Moraes from outside the area forced a brilliant diving save from Sutalo, before Nelson gathered the ball and shot just across the face of a vacant goal. South captain Vaughan Coveney, in his first match back since his A-League stint, controlled Nelson's shot before chipping the ball into the area finding Moraes but he was denied by a tremendous one handed save by Sutalo, who again was proving the difference early.

South were made to rue their missed chances when in the 21st minute against the run of play, former Perth Glory attacker Henry Fa'Arodo opened the scoring as he jinxed past a stationary Jonas Salley before curling the ball inside the far post to the delight of the small contingent of Royals fans.

Coveney came close to equalising for South in injury time as a Moraes free kick found the former New Zealand international unmarked six yards out but he managed to hit the cross-bar, as the lakeside based club missed another guilt edged opportunity.

A revitalised South exited the rooms for the second stanza and it wasn't long before they drew level as George Tzirtis received and sweeping ball from the right before striking the ball low and beating Sutalo to the right, to the jubilation of South's loyal

fans.

Despite a quiet first half, Essendon's other A-League recruit Steve Fitzsimmons came into his own in the second proving influential on the right hand side of the park. He came close to re-taking the lead for the Royals midway through the second half when Royals captain pushed forward and crossed for Fitzsimmons the former Knights player was unable to capitalize.

Moments later, Fitzsimmons again had a chance after a ball from the left from Frank Catalano found him unmarked 10 yards but he was only able to shoot into the arms of a grateful Dimitropoulos. The end-to-end nature of the contest saw South have a chance to take the lead just after the hour mark as a ball by Moraes again found Nelson who shot low forcing a great save by Sutalo.

Royals captain Schwall pushed further up the park and was a catalyst for the Royals late revival as has become the custom as Fa'Arodo again came close as he received the ball from Fitzsimmons before dribbling inside shooting goal wards only to be denied by outstanding south reserve 'keeper Dimitropoulos, but their late efforts were in vain as the sides split the points.

By Simon Chiarelli

Luciano Trani
Coach, Essendon Royals :

"I'm very pleased in terms of the overall performance where we maintained discipline and shape, South gave us a tough game we were under pressure in the first half and we still managed to keep our shape and then in the second half we opened up and created a number of opportunities to score.

Unfortunately we weren't able to capitalize but it was pleasing to see the side finish the game very well. When you look at the game overall it was entertaining to watch and it reinforces how strong the Vodafone Cup is and we have to give credit to the quality of football played by teams in the competition"

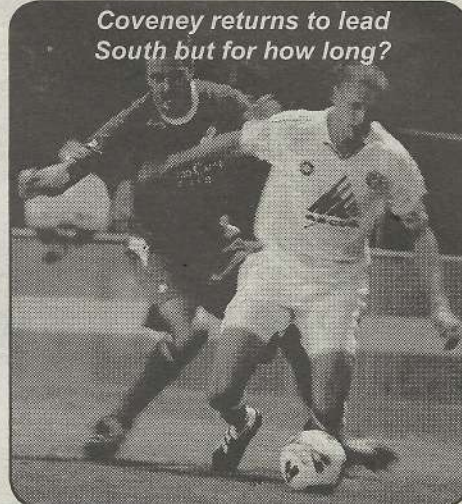
John Anastasiadis
Coach, South Melbourne:

"I think it was probably our best performance of the season. We were quite unlucky and up until the goal was scored I felt we were very much in control of things.

Unfortunately we couldn't capitalise on our chances but overall I thought we deserved the three points.

I suppose that's football and we need to take in the fact that we played quite well as a major positive and hopefully we can start converting our chances. At the end of the day you want to get rewarded for your hard work.

Coveney returns to lead South but for how long?



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Round 4


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ROYALS GIVE MAGIC A SCARE IN 5-GOAL THRILLER



ALTONA LEADS THE EARLY CHARGE IN VODAFONE CUP

Altona Magic 3 - Essendon Royals 2 *Played Saturday 25 Feb*

This contest was played in the worst of conditions with constant heavy rain. However this didn't detract from the spectacle and both sides put on an entertaining game, which saw a contrast of two halves.

An interested onlooker was Perth Glory player and Solomon Island International Henry Fa'Arodo who hopes to be representing the Royals in the very near future; He will be the link the Royals need to provide the cutting edge up front lost to them when Michael Curcija transferred to Kingston.

The game began with both sides holding their own and probing to come to term with their opponents along with the pitch and weather conditions. Both sides had an early chance each in the first 15 minutes but it was to be a six minute period starting mid-way through the half, which was to ultimately turn the tide and decide this game.

In the 27th minute Altona's Sash Becvinovski received a pass while his back was to the goal and he somehow managed to create a yard or so of space, sending a shot across the Royals custodian and into the bottom corner. This goal was a typical example of the goal scoring instinct that Becvinovski has displayed throughout his career. At this point Essendon's biggest worry was that they were giving away a lot of fouls just outside the Magic penalty area and it was these needless fouls that would cost them dearly.

A 30th minute foul on the edge of the box resulted in a free kick and the Magic's Dan-

iel Vasilevski was sharp enough to see that Essendon's defensive assignments were not being carried out. He took aim at the near post where there wasn't a defender to be seen and curled the kick directly into that exposed area. This ultimately proved to be the killer goal for the Royals.

Two minutes later another one of these free-kicks was to provide the home side's third goal when a Stivn Mrkela's shot took a wicked deflection and completely wrong footed the poor Royals keeper Marco Suta-

lo making it 3-0 to the Magic. Altona continued its relentless attack on the Royals, which did well not to concede a fourth goal. Royals coach Luciano Trani went in the dressing room at half time with a lot of work to do to get his team back into this game.

The second half saw a complete reversal of fortunes with Altona happy to sit back and defend its half time 3-0 lead and Essendon playing with the attitude that they had little to loose. The biggest talking point of the early part of the second half came in the 13th minute when Essendon played a long ball through behind the Altona defence and keeper Bojo Jevdjovic raced out to affect some block on the advancing player. As the Essendon player attempted to chip the keeper he stuck up a hand clearly handling the ball outside of his area. The referee however saw this as only a yellow card offence when quite clearly he should have been sent off.

Essendon exacted some revenge though as

David Pillic's resulting free kick flew directly past the Jevdjovic to make it 3-1 and give the Royals some hope.

The next few minutes saw produced some exchanges then Altona found themselves on the break with Becvinovski and Delev two on one and bearing down on goal, this was stopped by an exquisite covering tackle by Nathan Thomas. Thomas has blossomed into one of the better defenders in this league.

In the 78th minute a ball played into the Altona penalty box saw one of the defender handle the ball and the referee had no hesitation in pointing to the penalty spot. Lenny Catalano stepped up and dispatched the kick into the back of the net.

Both teams can take something out of this game and both teams also have things to be concerned about. From an Altona point of view it was ruthless in the first half when it had Essendon on the block. However in the second half the Magic took their foot off the pedal and allowed the Royals back into the game.

Essendon in the first half gave away far too many needless fouls in and around the Altona penalty box putting their keeper under far too much unnecessary pressure and costing themselves two of the three goals. In the second half however they showed a lot of heart and chased the game well and they are bringing up some good young talent

By Reuben Scembri

Ken Murphy

Coach, Altona Magic:

It was a fantastic first-half where we were 3-0 up. We spoke about it at half-time and everything...player psychology is a big thing... we definitely took the foot off the accelerator and nearly gave it away. The torrential downpour made it a bit of a lottery and we gave away a soft penalty. In the end I was extremely relieved to come away with the points, but saying that we could have been five or six up at half-time.

Luciano Trani,

Coach, Essendon Royals :

Altona opened up brightly in the first ten to fifteen minutes and put us under pressure from the word go. They created a couple of half chances, but then we got into the game too. We hit the post and had a period where were quite comfortable...until Altona hit us with three goals in about ten minutes. To the boys credit we came out in the second half, got a couple of goals back and were even looking for an equaliser towards the end. It's twice this season already where we've lost the game after scoring two goals. I was happy with the fightback even though I'm disappointed with lost. It's something we'll have to address during the week and hopefully we can rectify in time for our next match.



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FOOTBALL FOCUS...WITH CAM LEOPOLD

Name: Cameron Leopold

Team: Frankston Pines

Position: Central Midfield

Age: 29

Height: 5'8

Weight: 78KG

Previous clubs: Frankston Strikers and Moorabbin City

Outfield player you most enjoy watching in the VPL?

Andreas Oliveria

In the world?

Roy Keane

Hardest 'keeper and team to score against?

Stuart Webster and Oakleigh Cannons

nately we lost 1-0.

As a fan?

The Australia v Uruguay 2005 World Cup qualifier.

Where were you when Australia drew 2-2 with Iran?

At a mates' house.

And when Australia qualified for the World Cup against Uruguay?

At Craig Lewis' house.

Predict the following results:

Australia vs. Japan - W 2-1

Australia vs. Brazil - L 0-2

Australia vs. Croatia - D 1-1

Your tip for the 2006 World Cup?

I will be original and say Brazil.

Representative honours?

Junior state squads.

Most memorable goal you've scored?

25 yard volley against Cranbourne in my first year at the Pines.

Worst injury:

Proud to say I am still to say I have had one.

Record number of juggles in single attempt?

Never really counted.

Steak, chicken Parma or seafood?

Seafood.

Chips, veggies or salad?

Veggies.

Pizza or souvlaki?

Pizza.

Favourite drink, non alcoholic and alcoholic?

Wild Turkey and Dry.

Favourite nightspot?

Mornington.

My next holiday destination is...

Queensland.

Kitchen whiz or home handyman?

Both.

What's in the CD player right now?

Bernard Fanning.

Dream date?

Angelina Jolie.



First Frankston Pines player you'd invite to a party?

Nick Waite

On the end of season trip, the last player to shout drinks will be...

The last one with money!

Match day superstitions or rituals?

None, not a superstitious person.

Typical match day meal?

Baked Beans and eggs on toast.

Favourite sporting team while growing up?

Essendon Football Club.

What are your strengths?

Fitness, tackling, organising and controlling a midfield.

What are your weaknesses?

Scoring the easy goals!

Ten pin bowling or skydiving?

Ten pin bowling.

Toughest opponent?

Nick Sabljak

Select a player that you play most like?

Celtic's Roy Keane.

Which team do you select when playing FIFA soccer on a computer game?

Australia.

What is the last soccer shirt you bought?

Cameroon.

Funniest rumour you have heard about yourself?

Being transferred to Langwarrin.

Childhood soccer idol?

Lothar Mattheus.

Favourite former Socceroo?

Paul Okon.

Favourite Current Socceroo?

Harry Kewell.

What song or movie to do you get inspiration from?

Rocky, the movie or soundtrack

Do you watch Footballers' Wives? When's that on?

Best away ground you like to visit?

Preston's BT Connor.

If I didn't play football I'd play...

Aussie Rules.

What fictional character would you most like to be; why?

Chewbacca from Star Wars, because he's got lots of hair.

Hollywood is making a movie about your career. Who would you select to play you in a movie?

George Clooney.

Any other bits of Cam Leopold trivia you want us to reveal?

Married to Rachel for 2 years with a beautiful son Cooper.

By John Bonacci



Cam strolls of the pitch after a good performance against the Zebras in Round 1 of the VC.

Occupation?

Electrician

Craziest team mate of all time?

Billy Armour

Most influential coach of all time?

Russell Black

Most memorable match as a player?

Playing in the 2003 VPL Grand Final for Frankston against Green Gully. Unfortunately we lost 1-0.

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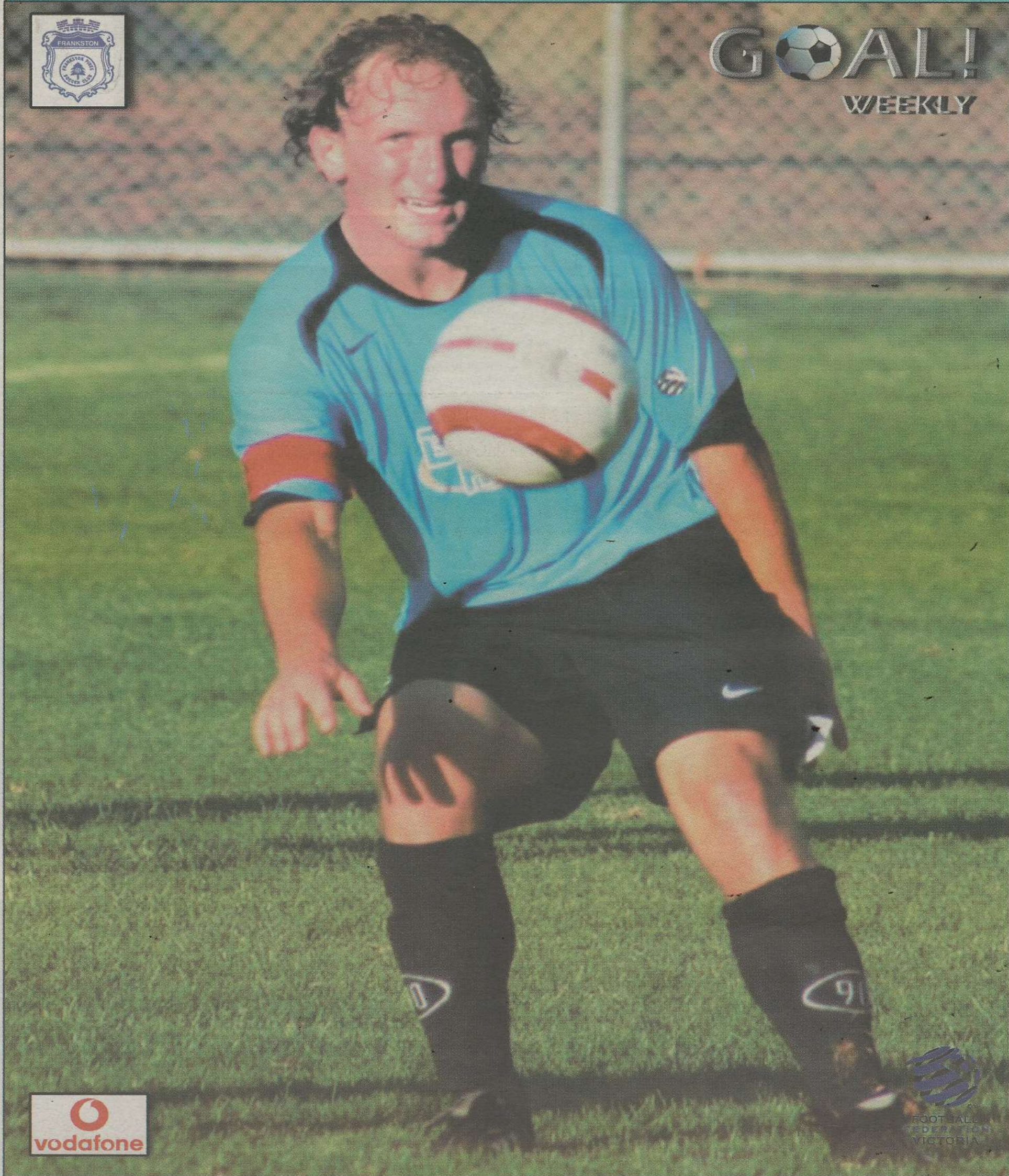


CAMERON LEOPOLD

FRANKSTON PINES FC



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WEEKLY



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WEEKLY



This is the moment Man-of-the Match Dwight Yorke is about to lay off the killer pass for Steve Corica to hit the winner.

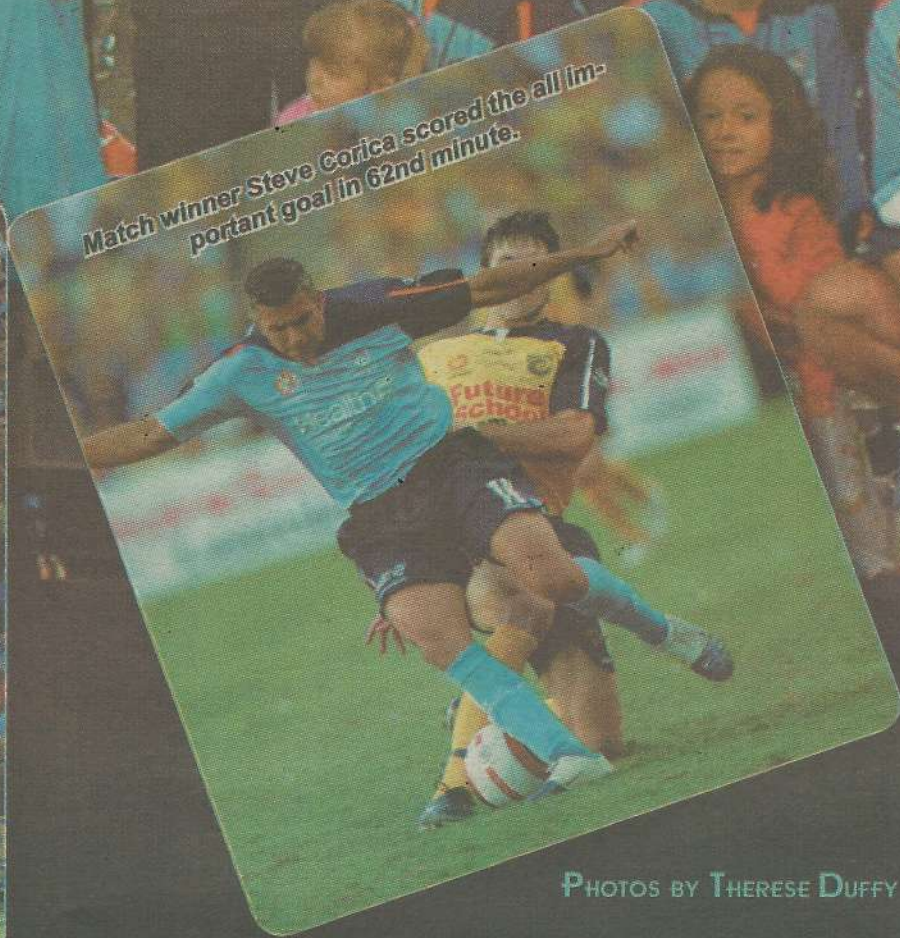
AUSTRALIA 2005/06

EYEC

RAL COAST MARINERS 0



Match winner Steve Corica scored the all important goal in 62nd minute.



PHOTOS BY THERESE DUFFY



Jefferson Ford



Gil Moreira

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Stef Pantis

0415 940 991



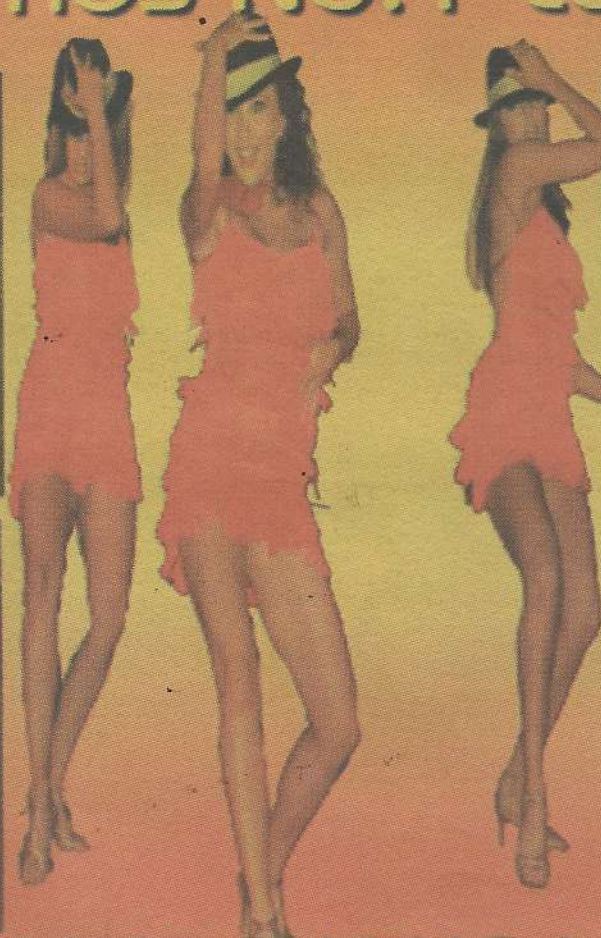
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HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE GRAND FINAL

SYDNEY FC CROWNED CHAMPIONS OF AUSTRALIA



The Sydney Football Club have been crowned the country's inaugural football champions with a one nil victory over the Central Coast Mariners in front of a record A League attendance at Aussie Stadium.

Over 41,000 fans witnessed a lone Steven Corica goal to the settle the result when he coolly slotted a Dwight Yorke cut-back fifteen minutes into the second half. It was none more than the Sydney-siders deserved for a stellar first season but the Mariners will rue many earlier missed opportunities that could've seen them into the sheds on the positive.

From the get go, the Mariners played flowing,

enterprising football that had seen them come into the game on the back of a twelve game unbeaten run. Andre Gumprecht was proving a menace and getting forward at every opportunity and could have put the Coasters one up after just five minutes but shot wide from ten yards with the goal beckoning.

Moments later, Stewart Petrie had a glorious opportunity following some nifty work from Tommy Pondlejak but once again, scuffed the shot as warning shots were fired at the favourites. Sydney, absorbing all they possibly could, didn't make any real contribution to the game until the half hour mark, when Sasho Petrovski angled a tame effort straight into the arms of the relieved Danny Vukovic between the Central posts.

FC was still being tormented by the Mariner middle runners and was helpless when allowing another Gumprecht positive run into the box. He crossed precisely for Petrie, who once again didn't make the most of some hard working support play and blew his chance over the bar. On any other day, it could've been a different story; it was starting to look like it wasn't going to be the Mariners day.

Sydney came out for the second half a new team. Possession started to swing their way and their more experienced players started to step up with David Carney making some creative, useful runs down the left channel. It was fair to say FC was starting to get on top of things and more importantly the groove of the game. They created a couple of half chances with Yorke weaving some wizardry and Petrovski running at defenders but couldn't manage anything of significance.

The Mariners were starting to lose the midfield that had served them so well in the first half, so it was no surprise when they finally conceded the season-

defying goal. Yorke picked up the ball on the edge of the area and ran at defenders Andy Clarke and Noel Spencer. He held the ball up allowing for more forward contribution where Steve Corica popped up in a promising position. Yorke picked out his man where Corica crisply rifled past the outstretched Vukovic.

The actual goal itself probably didn't get the credit it deserved. It was a marvelous finish but it mattered not how it went in. FC had the all important lead and suddenly the dream was becoming probable.

The Mariners re-shuffled and brought on some more attacking minded players. Matthew Osman replaced the serviceable Damian Brown as the Coasters pushed for one last tilt at an equaliser and it was Osman's creativeness that had Pondlejak through on goal but the instincts of Clint Bolton thwarted the audacious chip attempt.

Central Coast then removed the ineffective Petrie for the energetic Adam Kwasnik and Sydney brought on Iain Fyfe to sure things up at the back. The Mariners threw everybody forward with even the keeper coming up for an injury time corner but it was all to no avail. Sydney had defended stubbornly, The Mariners just couldn't penetrate and finally their time was up.

Central Coast was absolutely gallant in defeat but it was all about FC. They had beaten the minor premier over two legs and then ended the Mariners unbeaten run with a clinical, disciplined effort. The celebrations could finally begin, the stadium was bumping with euphoria and the Country's glamour club had lived up to their name, this were their time and they weren't about to be denied.

By George Sahinidis

MATCH DETAILS

SYDNEY FC 1
def
CENTRAL COAST
MARINERS 0

Scorer: Steven Corica
Sunday 5 March 2006
VENUE: Aussie Stadium
REFEREE: Mark Shield
CROWD: 41,689
WEATHER: Fine
PITCH: Good

Sydney FC Squad:

1.Clint BOLTON (gk), 3.Alvin CECCOLI
4.Mark RUDAN (2.Iain FYFE 72'), 8.Matthew BINGLEY, 10.Steve CORICA, 11.Sasho PETROVSKI (7.Rob MIDDLEBY 90+1')
12.Dave CARNEY 14.Andrew PACKER 15.Terry McFLYNN 17.Jacob TIMPANO (23.Ruben ZADKOVICH 81') 19.Dwight YORKE.

Substitutes Not Used: 20.Justin PASFIELD (gk) 24.Tolgay OZBEY

Yellow Cards: Nil

Central Coast Mariners Squad:

20.Danny VUKOVIC (gk) 2.Wayne O'SULLIVAN, 4.Noel SPENCER, 5.Michael BEAUCHAMP, 6.Andre GUMPRECHT, 8.Dean HEFFERNAN, 10.Tom PONDELJAK 11.Damian BROWN (17.Matthew OSMAN 68')
12.Stewart PETRIE (19.Adam KWASNIK 73'), 15.Andrew CLARK, 18.Alex WILKINSON (3.Paul O'GRADY 84')

Substitutes Not Used: 22.Jamie McMASTER, 30.Matthew TROTT (gk).

Yellow Cards: Noel Spencer 57'.

WHERE TO NEXT FOR A-LEAGUE?

With the completion of what must be seen as a successful, but not perfect, first A-League season, a number of questions arise. Two major issues in particular are the short season and the limited number of clubs.

The FFA has always stated that it will be a slow and measured process to building the league and for this reason they went with the eight team, one team per city model. This has helped to focus the media attention and player depth in each of the chosen cities. But looking down the track, which are the potential sites for new clubs that could take the A-League to a 10 or 12 team competition, and increase the number of games per season.

A number of criteria need to be taken into account in considering new teams, including:

- Suitable stadium. New clubs need access to a suitable, reasonably modern, rectangular stadium. The rugby states have the advantage here over AFL states, as they can ground share with established clubs.
- Potential spectators. It's all very well putting clubs in regional areas, but will anyone come to watch. Likewise, is putting a second team in one of the capitals wise, as they may take spectators away from current clubs.
- Corporate backing. The all-important dollar. Teams need to be in close proximity to big business, to be able to attract corporate dollars and sponsorship.
- League rules. The FFA has given clubs exclusive rights to their own city for five years, to ensure they can

build their brands.

With this in mind, let's look at some potential new teams

1. **Gold Coast.** Big population, strong football following, lots of business people. Best of all, a new 25,000 seater stadium is being built at Robina for the new Titans rugby league franchise and will be ready in 2008. Must be a favourite.
2. **Canberra.** A bit of a graveyard for national league teams (e.g. Cosmos, Cannons), but they certainly have quality facilities. Need to unite different factions and be well marketed, but surely the FFA would love a team in the nations capital. A reasonable chance.
3. **Wollongong.** Successful in the old NSL, but do we really need another team so close to Sydney. May struggle for corporate dollars and would need quick success (see CC Mariners) to bring in the fans. A reliable fall back option.
4. **Townsville.** The Cowboys have been great in the NRL, but this is rugby league heartland. Potential support might be a bit limited. A long-term option, with perhaps the Roar to play a home game or two there to build support.
5. **Second Sydney Team.** Certainly on the cards a few years down the track. Sydney's population spread means that a team in the west would have a good chance of succeeding. And of course that is where the football following is particularly strong.
6. **Second Melbourne Team.** Less likely than Sydney in the short-term, particularly for a team away from the CBD area, as Melbourne's geog-

raphy focuses in on the city centre. Best medium-term option would be a ground-share with an established entity e.g. maybe South Melbourne, if they diversify and sort out their finances over the next 10 years. Similar to Port Adelaide becoming second AFL team in Adelaide.

7. **Hobart.** No stadium, limited corporates, passionate but small supporter base. Very unlikely. Maybe Victory can establish some sort of presence there with practice/cup games, as there is certainly a hunger there amongst football people for a piece of the action.

8. **Regional Victoria.** Geelong, Morwell, Ballarat etc. Similar to Hobart. Unlikely to ever be a full-time team in any of these centres, Geelong probably best chance due to proximity to Melbourne.

9. **Darwin.** Same as above. Maybe cup games could be an option.

10. **Second New Zealand Team.** Sounds unlikely, but don't laugh too hard. If the Knights could ever sort themselves out, I'm sure the league would love a second team in Wellington or Christchurch. But that is a big 'if'. Might be 20 years away.

So summing up, if you were a betting person, the smart money on what the league will look like in 10 years might go for the Gold Coast, Canberra, Western Sydney and maybe Melbourne's second team as members of a 12 team league. But of course that assumes that the current 8 clubs survive that long!

By Peter Maddox

Gold Coast Stadium- To be completed by 2008...or so they say



2005-2006 A-League Crowd Figures

Round	Average	Lowest	Highest	Total
1	17,552	11,113	25,208	70,206
2	11,181	5,917	17,960	44,724
3	7,921	5,261	9,127	31,682
4	11,651	7,495	15,614	46,605
5	12,031	4,138	23,142	48,124
6	8,366	3,558	13,157	33,464
7	12,087	5,868	18,276	48,349
8	10,516	4,182	18,206	42,064
9	12,175	9,371	15,181	48,700
10	10,400	2,583	16,201	41,601
11	9,299	2,561	13,239	37,197
12	10,143	5,467	13,030	40,571
13	13,204	9,676	16,242	52,814
14	7,276	1,922	14,068	29,105
15	10,860	7,428	17,272	43,439
16	9,751	4,212	14,754	39,004
17	11,746	7,257	15,211	46,982
18	10,146	5,033	15,977	40,582
19	9,602	3,024	13,302	38,407
20	9,523	3,079	12,796	38,091
21	14,627	9,232	25,557	58,508
Finals 1	12,670	10,236	15,104	25,340
Finals 2	23,903	17,429	30,377	47,806
Finals 3	11,405	11,405	11,405	11,405
GFI	41,689	41,689	41,689	41,689
TOTAL	11,627	1,922	41,689	1,046,459

Monday 13 March

WORLD FOOTBALL

ARGENTINA CLAUSURA

Gimnasia J - San Lorenzo 0 - 1
Rosario - Racing 1 - 1
Arsenal - Sarandi Colon 1 - 1

Team	T	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
1 River Plate	8	5	2	1	20	9	17
2 Newell's	8	5	2	1	13	6	17
3 Boca Juniors	8	5	1	2	16	7	16
4 Colon	8	4	3	1	11	8	15
5 Gimnasia J	9	5	0	4	10	9	15
6 Independiente	8	4	2	2	11	3	14
7 Velez	8	3	4	1	11	7	13
8 San Lorenzo	9	3	3	3	9	8	12
9 Olimpo	8	3	2	3	12	9	11
10 Gimnasia LP	8	3	2	3	9	8	11
11 Arsenal Sarandi	8	3	2	3	7	6	11
12 Lanus	8	3	2	3	8	8	11
13 Estudiantes LP	8	3	2	3	12	13	11
14 Quilmes	8	3	1	4	6	7	11
15 Banfield	8	3	1	4	13	15	10
16 Arg. Juniors	8	1	5	2	9	12	8
17 Rosario	9	1	4	4	4	10	7
18 Tiro Federal	8	2	1	5	9	17	7
19 Instituto	8	1	2	5	5	17	5
20 Racing	9	0	2	7	4	19	2

ITALIAN SERIE A

Inter Milan - Sampdoria 1 - 0
Siena - Treviso 1 - 0

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
1 Juventus	28	23	4	1	57	18	73
2 Milan	28	20	3	5	63	24	63
3 Inter Milan	29	19	5	5	53	22	62
4 Fiorentina	28	17	5	6	48	30	56
5 Roma	28	16	7	5	52	26	55
6 Livorno	28	11	11	6	29	27	44
7 Chievo	28	10	11	7	37	32	41
8 Lazio	28	9	12	7	35	35	39
9 Sampdoria	29	10	7	12	42	38	37
10 Siena	29	9	8	12	34	43	35
11 Palermo	28	8	10	10	36	42	34
12 Ascoli	28	7	12	9	28	32	33
13 Reggina	28	8	7	13	28	44	31
14 Parma	28	7	8	13	31	47	29
15 Udinese	28	7	7	14	28	42	28
16 Cagliari	28	6	9	13	30	42	27
17 Messina	28	4	12	12	25	39	24
18 Empoli	28	6	5	17	28	50	23
19 Lecce	28	4	6	18	19	44	18
20 Treviso	29	2	9	18	16	42	15

BELGIAN JUPILER LEAGUE

Lierse SK - AA Gent 1 - 3
Excelsior - M Cercle 6 - 0
Racing Genk - G.B.A. 1 - 0
Beveren - Westerlo 3 - 1
Club Brugge - Charleroi 2 - 1
FC Brussels - La Louviere 0 - 0
Roeselare - Zulte Waregem 0 - 3

Team	T	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
1 Anderlecht	26	15	7	4	54	25	52
2 Standard	25	15	5	5	45	23	50
3 Club Brugge	26	14	8	4	41	25	50
4 Zulte-Waregem	26	14	5	7	46	34	47
5 Racing Genk	26	12	8	6	40	30	44
6 AA Gent	26	12	5	9	35	30	41
7 Lokeren	25	10	8	7	37	34	38
8 Westerlo	26	11	5	10	35	33	38
9 FC Brussels	26	8	10	8	25	25	34
10 Charleroi	26	9	7	10	28	31	34
11 Roeselare	26	8	8	10	39	36	32
12 G.B.A.	26	8	5	13	32	41	29
13 Excelsior M	26	8	4	14	37	36	28
14 Cercle	26	7	6	13	30	50	27
15 Sint-Truiden	26	6	8	12	29	37	26
16 Beveren	26	7	3	16	29	45	24
17 La Louviere	26	4	11	11	21	41	23
18 Lierse SK	26	5	7	14	17	44	22

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Dundee United - Livingston 3 - 1
Dunfermline - Aberdeen 1 - 0
Inverness - Hearts 0 - 0
Motherwell - Falkirk 3 - 1
Rangers - Kilmarnock 4 - 0

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
1 Celtic	28	22	4	2	77	28	70
2 Hearts	29	17	7	5	57	24	58
3 Rangers	29	15	7	7	52	32	52
4 Hibernian	28	15	3	10	51	37	48
5 Kilmarnock	29	13	8	8	53	47	47
6 Inverness	29	9	13	7	41	33	40
7 Motherwell	29	11	6	12	44	49	39
8 Aberdeen	29	9	11	9	32	34	38
9 Dundee United	30	7	10	13	36	51	31
10 Dunfermline	30	5	7	18	25	57	22
11 Falkirk	29	5	6	18	27	56	21
12 Livingston	29	2	6	21	17	64	12

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

Airdrie United - Dundee FC 7 - 0
Clyde - Brechin 5 - 1
Ross County - St. Johnstone 2 - 2
St. Mirren - Queen of the South 1 - 0

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
1 St. Mirren	28	17	7	4	41	23	58
2 Ross County	28	14	9	5	42	30	51
3 St. Johnstone	29	13	11	5	48	28	50
4 Clyde	29	12	9	8	47	36	45
5 Hamilton	28	11	11	6	45	36	44
6 Dundee FC	29	8	14	7	38	43	38
7 Airdrie United	29	9	9	11	47	34	36
8 Stranraer	27	4	11	12	25	40	23
9 Queen of the South	29	4	9	16	22	47	21
10 Brechin	28	1	8	19	20	58	11

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

Dumbarton - Peterhead 2 - 3
Forfar - Alloa 3 - 0
Gretna - Morton 1 - 2
Partick Thistle - Ayr United 2 - 2
Stirling Albion - Raith Rovers 2 - 2

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
1 Gretna	27	21	4	2	74	21	67
2 Morton	28	17	5	6	48	26	56
3 Peterhead	28	13	5	10	42	39	44
4 Partick Thistle	27	12	8	7	46	44	44
5 Stirling Albion	26	11	5	10	43	45	38
6 Raith Rovers	27	9	6	12	36	43	33
7 Forfar	26	9	1	16	33	42	28
8 Ayr United	28	6	10	12	39	50	28
9 Dumbarton	26	7	3	16	32	42	24
10 Alloa	27	4	5	18	28	69	17

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

1.FC Köln - Nürnberg 3 - 4
MSV Duisburg - Hannover 96 0 - 0
Wolfsburg - Bayern München 0 - 0
Stuttgart - Dortmund 0 - 0
Mainz 05 - Monchengladbach 3 - 0
Arminia - Bielefeld Leverkusen 1 - 0
Werder Bremen - Hertha BSC 0 - 3

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
1 Bayern München	25	18	5	2	48	19	59
2 Werder Bremen	25	15	5	5	55	29	50
3 Hamburger SV	24	15	5	4	37	18	50
4 Schalke 04	24	13	9	2	35	18	48
5 Stuttgart	25	7	14	4	27	22	35
6 Hertha BSC	25	8	9	8	37	35	33
7 Monchengladbach	25	8	9	8	30	32	33
8 Leverkusen	25	8	8	9	41	39	32
9 Hannover 96	25	6	13	6	34	31	31
10 Dortmund	25	7	10	8	29	29	31
11 Arminia Bielefeld	25	8	6	11	27	34	30
12 Nürnberg	25	7	6	12	30	40	27
13 Wolfsburg	25	6	9	10	25	40	27
14 Frankfurt	24	7	5	12	31	39	26
15 Mainz 05	25	6	6	13	36	39	24
16 Kaiserslautern	24	6	6	12	34	51	24
17 MSV Duisburg	25	4	9	12	23	43	21
18 1.FC Köln	25	4	6	15	35	58	18

GREEK KATIGORIA

PAOK - Panathinaikos 0 - 1
Aigaleo - Atromitos/H. 0 - 1

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
1 Olympiakos	22	20	0	2	50	13	60
2 Panathinaikos	23	16	3	4	39	17	51
3 AEK Athens	22	15	3	4	28	17	48
4 Xanthi	22	10	5	7	24	19	35
5 Iraklis	22	10	4	8	27	23	34
6 Atromitos/H.	23	9	5	9	25	24	32
7 PAOK	23	8	7	8	31	24	31
8 Larisa	22	8	6	8	25	27	30
9 Aigaleo	23	7	8	8	17	22	29
10 Kalamaria	22	7	7	8	23	27	28
11 Ionikos	22	6	9	7	30	30	27
12 Levadiakos	22	5	6	11	15	25	21
13 Panionios	22	5	4	13	21	38	19
14 OFI	22	3	8	11	11	28	17
15 Kalithea	22	3	7	12	21	35	16
16 Akratitos	22	3	4	15	15	33	13

AUSTRIAN LEAGUE

Salzburg - Admira 0 - 1
Austria Wien - Superfund 1 - 1
GAK - Tirol 0 - 1
Mattersburg - Sturm 1 - 1

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
1 Austria Wien	25	14	6	5	34	18	48
2 Salzburg	26	14	2	10	38	31	44
3 GAK	24	11	5	8	35	25	38
4 Rapid Wien	25	10	7	8	39	32	37
5 Superfund	26	9	8	9	28	25	35
6 SV Ried	23	8	9	6	34	31	33
7 Tirol	26	8	9	9	30	37	33
8 Sturm	26	7	10	9	32	35	31
9 Mattersburg	25	7	5	13	28	42	26
10 Admira	24	5	3	16	28	50	18

TURKISH FIRST DIVISION

Fenerbahçe - Konyaspor 5 - 0
Gençlerbirliği - Gaziantepspor 3 - 1
Rizespor - Ankaragücü 1 - 0

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
1 Fenerbahçe	24	17	5	2	60	23	56
2 Galatasaray	23	17	4	2	54	22	55
3 Kayserispor	23	12	4	7	42	29	40
4 Gençlerbirliği	24	10	8	6	35	22	38
5 Beşiktaş	23	10	6	7	36	26	36
6 Trabzonspor	23	10	6	7	30	30	36
7 Sivasspor	23	7	10	6	23	23	31
8 Konyaspor	24	8	7	9	32	33	31
9 Erciyesspor	24	7	10	7	25	31	31
10 Manisaspor	24	8	6	10	34	33	30
11 Ankaragücü	24	6	9	9	29	30	27
12 Rizespor	24	6	9	9	20	28	27
13 Ankaraspor	23	5	10	8	30	35	25
14 Gaziantepspor	24	6	7	11	25	41	25
15 Denizlispor	23	6	6	11	24	32	24
16 Samsunspor	23	5	5	13	33	49	20
17 Malatyaspor	23	4	8	11	18	35	20
18 Diyarbakirspor	23	5	4	14	21	49	19

CHILEAN LEAGUE

Cobresal - Everton CD 0 - 0
Huachipato - Cobreloa 4 - 2

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1 A. Italiano	7	6	1	0	19	6	19
2 U. de Chile	6	4	2	0	11	7	14
3 Colo Colo	6	4	1	1	20	10	13
4 U. Católica	6	3	2	1	12	8	11
5 Cobreloa	5	3	1	1	13	7	10
6 Huachipato	6	3	1	2	9	6	10
7 Cobresal	7	2	4	1	11	11	10
8 Palestino	6	3	0	3	13	13	9
9 Puerto Montt	6	2	1	3	10	10	7
10 U. Concepcion	5	2	1	2	7	8	7
11 Rangers Talca	6	2	1	3	10	12	7
12 Everton CD	6	2	1	3	6	10	7
13 S. Morning	7	1	3	3	9	12	6
14 Coquimbo	6	1	3	2	7	10	6
15 La Serena	5	1	2	2	9	8	5
16 Antofagasta	8	1	1	4	7	13	4
17 O'Higgins	6	1	1	4	3	11	4
18 U. Espanola	5	1	0	4	4	9	3
19 Wanderers	5	0	2	3	1	10	2
20 D. Concepcion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

succeroo

a pom's home view



February and March are brutal months for Premiership footballers. Emerging from the cold and bitter winter the pitches are a mess, especially Stamford Bridge, currently referred to as 'Stamford Beach'. Mid week Champions League matches and FA Cup replays start to swamp the fixture list. International friendlies are greeted with a mixed reception and for those with their eyes set on the world cup the finish line is far away...

Sir Alex Ferguson used to say he wanted England to be knocked out of any tournament in the first round so his Manchester United players could return well rested. Perhaps the England Manager should be happy that all but one of the English clubs in the Champions League has been eliminated so their seasons do not drag on too long. As it happens Arsenal were the only English team to go through to the Quarter-finals, they did this without a single Englishman in the team and by knocking out the last remaining one, David Beckham of Real Madrid.

England's recent 2-1 win over Uruguay was a pleasing if not relieving result. The prospect of losing to a non-qualified team would have been detrimental to their World Cup build up. Chelsea's Joe Cole was without doubt the star man, setting up Peter Crouch with the first goal and scoring the winner in

injury time. He has surely managed to seal his place in the starting line up, filling the troubled left wing position. The Liverpool striker, Crouch looked surprisingly comfortable in an England jersey albeit one that was misprinted with 12 on the back and 21 on the front. It was a shame that he couldn't find the back of the net for Liverpool as they were knocked out by Benfica in the Champions league.



The Liverpool manager, Rafael Benitez, had pleaded with the England manager not to use Steven Gerrard for the England friendly, whose competitive season began 230 days ago and may have a further 131 to run. Gerrard did play for 45 minutes, but lacked spir-

it as his place in the team is cemented and he was more concerned with Liverpool's game against Benfica. His midfield partner Chelsea's Frank Lampard wasn't quite so lucky as he picked up a hamstring injury that in turn made him look rather pedestrian when Chelsea lost to Barcelona.

The England game was the first of three friendlies lined up to mimic the type of opposition England would face in their World Cup qualifying group. Albeit each of the nations chosen have not qualified for the finals themselves and should therefore be easier to beat. Uruguay is, in theory, similar to Paraguay, England's first opponent in Germany.

England's next game is against Hungary on 25th May. Not quite the calibre of Sweden nor do they really play in the same style. However, Sweden looked unusually vulnerable at the back in their recent 3-0 loss to Republic of Ireland.

England's final warm-up match is against Jamaica on the 3rd June. Jamaica are seen to be similar in style to Trinidad & Tobago. Trinidad & Tobago's are entering their first World Cup. They are not short of technical ability and may be the dark horse exceeding expectations.

Looking ahead to June, there are the usual fears of fans clashing. The risk of trouble is

thought to be from the English, Dutch, Poland and German fans. Which is all the more worrying with Poland and Germany drawn to play each other in the first round, and one of them is likely to face England in the second round.

While the last finals, in Japan and South Korea in 2002, were trouble-free, this was probably because they were staged far from the traditional European "centers" of hooliganism. The wide availability of cheap beer in Germany, and that the country is served by cheap flights from all over Europe and its many shared borders make the tournament high-risk.

Meanwhile the German's have issued a new law, which would see anyone mimicking Second World War acts or Hitler impressions spending 24 hours behind bars. This has not stopped hundreds of thousands of plastic helmets, styled on German army uniforms, coloured to match each competing nationality being sold by Dutch manufacturers.

As a result any attempts to emulate John Cleese's silly walks could be risky!

By Richard Sucksmith

UK FOOTBALL WRAP

CHELSEA CLAIM DERBY WITH LATE GALLAS WINNER

Written by: Stephen Sharp

A last-gasp goal by William Gallas secured Chelsea a London derby win over Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday while Bolton cruised to a win over West Ham.



Chelsea - Tottenham Hotspur 2-1

Michael Essien fired the league leaders in front in the 14th minute when he turned in a crossing pass from Shaun Wright-Phillips, marking the Ghanaian international's first goal for the Blues.

But the match went to half-time level at 1-1 as Jermaine Jenas put the ball into the Chelsea net after Michael Dawson played the ball to him with his head.

It looked as if the visitors would grab a point from Stamford Bridge, but into second-half

injury time Gallas found space and blasted a shot that was destined for the back of the net, leaving goalkeeper Paul Robinson with no chance.

Bolton Wanderers - West Ham United 4-1

With Spurs dropping points, fifth-placed Bolton took advantage and moved closer to the Champions League positions with a fine victory at home over West Ham.

Stelios Giannakopoulos put the Trotters in front on 12 minutes with a rebound after a shot by Ricardo Vaz Té came off the post, and the Greek international doubled the lead in the 33rd minute as he deflected Kevin Nolan's shot past Shaka Hislop.

Gary Speed made it 3-0 to the home side just before the break as he did well to flick Ricardo Gardner's header into the goal.

After veteran striker Teddy Sheringham pulled a goal back for the Hammers on 78 minutes, Bolton re-emphasized their dominance in the match as Henrik Pedersen poked home in the 81st minute.

Everton - Fulham 3-1

Red-hot James Beattie scored twice as Everton notched a nice victory over Fulham, keeping the Cottagers winless on the road this season in 15 matches.

Beattie put the Toffees in front after 14 minutes from the penalty spot after be-

ing hauled down by Fulham defender Zat Knight, and he doubled the advantage in the 36th minute with a nifty chip of goalkeeper Tony Warner.

A dazzling volley from over 30 yards by James McFadden made it 3-0 to Everton in the 54th minute and Fulham's only goal came from the spot late on through Collins John.

Sunderland - Wigan Athletic 0-1

Kevin Ball's debut as Sunderland caretaker manager ended in familiar style as Sunderland fell at home to Wigan following a stunning goal by Henri Camara.

The Senegalese international gave the Latics the lead after just eight minutes when he fired in a brilliant shot from just outside the area following a failed clearance by Nyron Nosworthy.

It was all the visitors needed to stay in the hunt for the European places.

Portsmouth - Manchester City 2-1

Despite still being in the relegation zone, Portsmouth got a big home victory over Manchester City thanks to a Pedro Mendes double.

The Portuguese midfielder scored on the hour mark with a beautiful shot from 26 yards that eluded goalkeeper David James, but City were level with seven minutes to play as Richard Dunne headed home from

a corner kick.

Pompey, though, wouldn't be denied as Mendes scored on the last play of the game with another shot from the same distance as the first. This shot also had the same result as it hit the back of the net.

Birmingham City - West Bromwich Albion 1-1

It was a true relegation battle in the lunch-time kickoff at St. Andrew's and a second-half goal by substitute Nathan Ellington earned West Brom a share of the spoils to keep Birmingham third from bottom.

The Blues went in front just after the second half started as Mikael Forssell converted a penalty in the 49th minute after being felled by Curtis Davies, but Ellington scored just after coming onto the pitch in the 70th minute as he converted a ball from Kanu.

Both sides hit the post in the game and Ellington could have had the winner late on before being denied by the woodwork.

Blackburn Rovers - Aston Villa 2-0

Blackburn Rovers had Andy Todd opening the score, three minutes into the second half. A second goal was added by Craig Bellamy in the 72nd minute

Source: Soccer Way

WORLD FOOTBALL

LYON AND BORDEAUX WIN IN LIGUE 1

Written by: Jonathan Roorda
Olympique de Lyon easily defeated Metz to maintain their lead in the French Ligue 1, while Bordeaux had a 2-0 win over Toulouse to stay in the leaders' track.

Olympique de Lyon - Metz 4-0

After their 4-0 win over PSV Eindhoven on Wednesday, Ligue 1 leaders Lyon repeated that score against Metz. Eleven minutes were played when Florent Malouda opened the score, and Norwegian striker John Carew doubled the gap four minutes later.

Malouda added another in the 33rd minute and a fourth goal came from Patrick Muller with just one minute left in regular time.

Bordeaux - Toulouse 2-0

Bordeaux hosted Toulouse and achieved a 2-0 victory. The deadlock was broken by Carlos Henrique Souza in the 62nd minute, and Nicolas Douchez scored an own goal in the 82nd.

Auxerre - Nice 2-0

The hosts took the lead with a goal from Kanga Akale in the 54th minute, and Rene Bolf decided the match with his goal for 2-0 in the 78th.

Lens - Troyes 1-0

Lens only needed one goal, from Daniel Cousin in the 44th minute, to take a victory over Troyes. The visitors had Eloye Enza Yamissi sent off in the 81st minute.

Rennes - Ajaccio 3-0

Rennes continued their battle for European football with a 3-0 win over Ajaccio. Yoann Gourcuff put the hosts ahead in the 50th minute, followed by goals from Olivier Monterrubio and Youssef Hadji in the 82nd and 83rd minutes respectively.

Nancy - Paris Saint-Germain 1-1

PSG again dropped points, this time away to Nancy. The home team took the lead through Jonathan Brison in the 24th minute and the Parisians levelled through Côte d'Ivoire striker Bonaventure Kalou in the 77th.

AS Monaco - Sochaux 4-1

Monaco needed just nine minutes to open the score through Ernesto Chevanton, and Marco Di Vaio added a second in the 17th. In the first minute after the break, Olivier Kapo netted Monaco's third and Di Vaio got another in the 34th. Araujo Ilan did something back by converting a penalty for 4-1 in the 68th minute.

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Bayern, Bremen drop points following European falls

Written by: Stephen Sharp
League leaders Bayern Munich, eliminated from the Champions League by AC Milan, were held to a goalless draw by Wolfsburg while Werder Bremen were thrashed at home by Hertha Berlin.

Wolfsburg - Bayern Munich 0-0

Still reeling from a drubbing at the hands of AC Milan, Bayern Munich dropped points in the league for the third time in four matches as Wolfsburg held them to a goalless draw.

Bayern, with the point, are now nine points clear of Bremen and Hamburg, but the latter still have a match to play on Sunday. Wolfsburg, meanwhile, are three points away from the relegation zone in 13th place.

Werder Bremen - Hertha Berlin 0-3

After being knocked out of the Champions League by Juventus following goalkeeper Tim Wiese's howler late on, the second-placed team in the Bundesliga looked a shell of themselves in a dreadful loss.

The first half featured five yellow cards, but no goals. However, the deadlock was broken in the 54th minute when Kevin Boateng found the back of the net for struggling Hertha and Brazilian Marcelinho doubled the lead in the 76th minute.

Yildiray Bastürk sealed the victory with seven minutes to play, Hertha's first in the Bundesliga since a win at Bayer Leverkusen on 4 December.

Stuttgart - Borussia Dortmund 0-0

Stuttgart went to four matches unbeaten in the league after they were held to a stalemate at the Gottlieb-Daimler Stadion by Borussia Dortmund.

Stuttgart remain in the top five in the league while a recent letdown by Dortmund has seen them dip to 10th in the standings.

Mainz - Borussia Mönchengladbach 3-0

Mainz jumped out of the bottom three on goal difference after they cruised past Borussia Mönchengladbach at Stadion am Bruchweg.

Michael Thurk put the home side in front after 62 minutes and Mohamed Zidan doubled the lead just seven minutes later before Thurk added his second with a minute left to play.

Mainz will go back into the relegation zone if Kaiserslautern get a point on Sunday.

Köln - Nürnberg 3-4

In the day's most thrilling encounter in the Bundesliga, bottom side Köln were denied victory at home thanks in part to a hat-trick by Robert Vittek.

The Slovakian international put Nürnberg in front from the penalty spot in the sixth minute and added goals in the 16th and 22nd minutes to make it 3-0 to secure his treble.

Köln began their fightback as Boris Zivkovic

fired in a goal on 28 minutes to make it 3-1, but Ivan Saenko made it 4-1 to the visitors in the 58th minute.

Marvin Matip and Lukas Podolski both scored goals just after the hour mark to pull Köln back within a goal, but a red card to Christian Lell in the 82nd minute effectively ended their chances of snatching a point.

Arminia Bielefeld - Bayer Leverkusen 1-0

Arminia Bielefeld, fighting to stay safe in the Bundesliga, got a big win over Bayer Leverkusen at home on Saturday to move to 11th, six points above the drop zone.

Bielefeld got the win early on as Radomir Dalovic put into the Leverkusen net in the fifth minute to secure a big three points for the home side at Schüco Arena.

Duisburg - Hannover 0-0

Hannover look to have pulled themselves to safety after earning a point away to relegation candidates Duisburg at MSV Arena on Saturday.

Hannover sit ninth in the table while Duisburg are second from bottom on 21 points.

SPAIN PRIMERA LIGA

Valencia to make Viana transfer permanent

Written by: Chris Nixon
Spanish side Valencia have agreed to turn on-loan midfielder Hugo Viana's loan into a permanent deal.

The Portuguese player is currently owned by Newcastle, but the Geordie side have agreed to sell the former Sporting Lisbon player for a meagre £1.2 million. A huge loss on the £8.5 million paid by Bobby Robson for the player in 2002.

"Viana has great potential and is a very interesting player for us," said Javier Subirats, director of sport at Valencia.

Subirats also explained that the Primera Liga side decided to act now before the player joined Portugal at the World Cup in case his value soared during the tournament.

"He is a young player who will play at the World Cup and because of that we decided to close the transfer now."

Arsenal-Beveren partnership ends

Written by: Chris Nixon
Arsenal's successful partnership with Beveren has ended with the departure of the Belgian club's sporting director Jean-Marc Guillou.

The Belgian side have been heavily criticised in recent years for their heavy recruitment of Ivory Coast players from Guillou's academy in that country, but have produced the likes Kolo Toure and Emmanuel Eboué who are now performing

for Arsenal.

Guillou, who is a friend of Arsene Wenger, has made his frustrations known with directors at the Jupiler League club.

"It looked like a theatre act with a gang of performers. It was complete ridicule," said an angry Guillou.

"I have let it be known to the directors that they haven't the ability, nor the tools, nor the knowledge to lead a club. Within two years the club debt will be doubled.

When asked if the on-going partnership with Arsenal would now be brought to an end, Guillou admitted that the deal was now over.

"Yes the cooperation between Beveren and Arsenal is over. Was I free of any sins? My biggest mistake maybe was I am no Belgian."

Real circling Capello

Written by: Chris Nixon
New Real Madrid President Fernando Martin has declared his admiration for Juventus boss Fabio Capello, reigniting suggestions of a move for the tactician this summer.

"I like Capello," said Martin.

"His ability can't be questioned when you look at his record."

When asked if the Italian tactician was the number one target for the Spanish giants, Martin avoided revealing his hand.

"Real want the best man for the job. The board will decide who to target after a meeting next week."

Capello has been dogged by stories linking him with a return to Madrid all season, and Martin's declaration is likely to ensure that such innuendo does not disappear before the end of the current campaign.

In order to even consider making the move back to Spain, it is believed that Capello wants a major clear out of the squad's ageing stars. Such a request was dismissed by former President Florentino Perez before Christmas, however newly arrived Martin is much more receptive to such big changes.

Martin is keen to see the overhaul of the squad this summer and believes that Capello could be the ideal man to take such measures.



Sought after: Fabio Capello

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Katsa's Korner With George Katsamboukas



During the last week I have received feedback from my friends around the Soccer circles, that this column has lacked the reporting of controversial stories.

"Katsa, you promised so much in the beginning but have delivered little".

Due to popular demand, gloves are off, and as my Dentist tells me, "Sit back, relax and this will not hurt one little bit."

The rumour mill ran overtime this week once again concerning certain A-League players being transferred to VPL Clubs.

There are too many to mention, needless to say that if I had a dollar for every whisper that I received of A League Player transfers to VPL Clubs that was banded around, I would be able to take my female assistants who feature in the photo section of Katsa's Korner to more luxurious surroundings than the local McDonalds.

State League teams are beginning to have controversies of their own even before the season has commenced. The biggest story to come out this week is that a coach saved his job at the eleventh hour, by good fortune,

rather than good management, after a heated exchange with a committee member. An early morning wake up call advised me of an impending coaching change at this club; however, the committee member resigned citing an inability to work with the coach in question, perhaps saving the coach's job.

I have been advised to watch this space by my sources. Naturally I will keep everyone posted; the conclusion to this story has been brewing for months. Katsa's tip is that somebody from this club will be visiting seek.com.au very very soon!

Two other State League clubs are playing out a battle royale for the services of a young player. These two clubs have been rivals on the park for decades, needless to say that there is no love lost between the two, and emotions are certainly running high. At the time of writing this article, the player in question is still in limbo as to where he will be playing.

I am receiving many calls from Club Officials wanting to strengthen their teams, the common question asked is "Katsa, do you know of any Strikers that are looking for another Club?"

This has been going on for weeks and I was pleasantly surprised when I received a call from a club official asking me if I knew of any Keepers that were free, as it gave me something different to think about.

Gentlemen, my days of sourcing players have gone, one suggestion is to grab the nearest shopping trolley, examine your goods carefully and ensure that when you get to the check

out counter, that you have enough \$\$\$\$ in your wallets, bank accounts and credit cards to cover what's in your trolley.

Over the years I have seen many games postponed due to the playing surface being unplayable. Nine times out of ten, this has been caused by excessive rain.

One for the books this week is the postponement of the Preston/ Oakleigh game due to Preston's pitch being damaged by Crows!

I had to read the FFV's Media release a few times for this to sink in, as it is certainly not something that occurs every day that Crows damage a playing surface. At least Preston notified the FFV of possible ground issues and the FFV inspected the pitch and postponed the game, saving traveling fans, me including, a long drive.

The Father/Son rule is alive and kicking in Victorian Soccer, but not in the way that we know it ala AFL where the Son can play at the same club as his father played.

I have seen some exceptionally talented young players over the years, whose careers have gone backwards before they really started, due to pressure to perform placed on them by their fathers.

It goes something like this.

Young Johnny shows some promise at age 12, Dad is excited by the prospect of Johnny one day making it big overseas; Dad pushes Johnny to train harder, play better, listen to Dads advice and not to the coaches instructions,

Johnny becomes tired of the whole thing and gives the game away at 16.

Enter the privately run Academy's and Private Coaching Clinics that will make Johnny a better player, and also secure him overseas trials, Johnny becomes burnt out and goes from a great talent to an ordinary player. His game suffers, he gets dropped from his team and Dad takes Johnny to another club, because according to Dad, the coaches are not giving him a fair go

Moral to the story, the main reason why people play Football should be to enjoy the game; anything achieved after that such as overseas or local contracts is a bonus. Keep the pressure off Dads and allow children to enjoy this great game of ours!

Following on from the "Money cant buy you love" story from two weeks ago, we should all recognise, and especially players who are fortunate enough to be paid to play Football, the many volunteers at each Club who spend many unpaid hours volunteering their efforts to raise money to pay these players.

Canteen Workers, Ground Staff, Administration and Marketing staff, sacrifice their own personal time to raise money to keep clubs viable. I am sure that being acknowledged by their players on training nights and match days will certainly give them more motivation to continue their volunteer work.

A quick hello does not go astray Lads.

This is Katsa - But not as You've known him!

FC CLIFTON HILL LOOKING TO REPLENISH NUMBERS

Football is now growing more than ever in this state and country. Word Cup fever is about to hit and it's not just the one sex that is excited.

F.C. Clifton Hill formerly known as Clifton Hill Utd soccer club, has been around for over thirty years. It has a proud tradition and has produced some of this state's finest players.

Last year the club decided to once again form a womens state league team and recruited Spiro Thalassinios as their coach. The team actually led the standings on the ladder for some time and eventually finished an impressive third place at the end of their debut season.

"They are a lovely and friendly bunch of girls however they mean business on the pitch. They are definitely the best group I've coached in over five years, but we need more players. With university and Vce some girls just can't make the time, others are afraid of asking if they can play. You wouldn't believe how many people just walk past on a Sunday, see the girls playing and decide to

stay and watch the whole game. They still don't believe that women can actually play the game", says Thalassinios.

Spiro who has been coaching for over five years now, believes that the competitions are becoming better and better, and the leagues grow dramatically with every season.

Clifton are holding trials and looking for players with some experience, however women out there who want to give football a try for the first time, are more than welcomed to come and have a kick to see if they like it. If you are a woman between the age of 15 to 50 and want to give it a go, come down and say hello. FC Clifton Hill is located at Quarries park, Ramsden St in Clifton Hill and training is held from 700 till 830 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

If you would like any further information don't hesitate to Call Spiro on: 0413 13 6244 or 9 386 79 11.

REMAINING COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP FIXTURES

Section	Day	Game	Match Date	Home Team v Away Team	Ground Name	Start Time	Finish Time
MONDAY, 13th March 2006							
Under 14 (boys)	3	25	Mon, 13-Mar-2006	Ballarat v N.E.S.L.	Stead Park - No. 4	09:00 AM	09:55 AM
Under 14 (boys)	3	26	Mon, 13-Mar-2006	Sunraysia v Western	Stead Park - No. 5	09:00 AM	09:55 AM
Under 14 (boys)	3	27	Mon, 13-Mar-2006	Bendigo v Albury Wodonga	Stead Park - No. 4	10:15 AM	11:10 AM
Under 14 (boys)	3	28	Mon, 13-Mar-2006	Moama Echuca v Gippsland	Stead Park - No. 5	10:15 AM	11:10 AM
TUESDAY, 14th March 2006							
Under 14 (girls)	3	18	Mon, 13-Mar-2006	Western v Bendigo	Hume Reserve - No. 3	08:45 AM	09:40 AM
Under 14 (girls)	3	19	Mon, 13-Mar-2006	Swan Hill v Albury Wodonga	Hume Reserve - No. 3	09:50 AM	10:45 AM
Under 14 (girls)	3	20	Mon, 13-Mar-2006	Bendigo v Gippsland	Hume Reserve - No. 3	10:55 AM	11:50 AM
Under 14 (girls)	3	21	Mon, 13-Mar-2006	N.E.S.L. v Ballarat	Hume Reserve - No. 3	12:00 PM	12:55 PM
WEDNESDAY, 15th March 2006							
Under 15 (boys)	3	25	Mon, 13-Mar-2006	Moama Echuca v Albury Wodonga	Hume Reserve - No. 1	09:00 AM	10:05 AM
Under 15 (boys)	3	26	Mon, 13-Mar-2006	Ballarat v Gippsland	Hume Reserve - No. 2	09:00 AM	10:05 AM
Under 15 (boys)	3	27	Mon, 13-Mar-2006	Sunraysia v Western	Hume Reserve - No. 1	10:30 AM	11:35 AM
Under 15 (boys)	3	28	Mon, 13-Mar-2006	Bendigo v N.E.S.L.	Hume Reserve - No. 2	10:30 AM	11:35 AM
THURSDAY, 16th March 2006							
Under 16 (boys)	3	18	Mon, 13-Mar-2006	N.E.S.L. v Moama Echuca	Stead Park - No. 1	09:00 AM	10:05 AM
Under 16 (boys)	3	19	Mon, 13-Mar-2006	Ballarat v Gippsland	Stead Park - No. 1	10:15 AM	11:20 AM
Under 16 (boys)	3	20	Mon, 13-Mar-2006	Albury Wodonga v Bendigo	Stead Park - No. 1	11:30 AM	12:35 PM
Under 16 (boys)	3	21	Mon, 13-Mar-2006	Swan Hill v Ballarat	Stead Park - No. 1	12:45 PM	01:50 PM
FRIDAY, 17th March 2006							
Under 16 (girls)	3	29	Mon, 13-Mar-2006	Western v Bendigo	Stead Park - No. 2	09:00 AM	09:55 AM
Under 16 (girls)	3	30	Mon, 13-Mar-2006	Warrnambool v Gippsland	Stead Park - No. 3	09:00 AM	09:55 AM
Under 16 (girls)	3	31	Mon, 13-Mar-2006	Albury Wodonga v N.E.S.L.	Stead Park - No. 2	10:05 AM	11:00 AM
Under 16 (girls)	3	32	Mon, 13-Mar-2006	Ballarat v Swan Hill	Stead Park - No. 3	10:05 AM	11:00 AM
Under 16 (girls)	3	33	Mon, 13-Mar-2006	Gippsland v Western	Stead Park - No. 2	11:10 AM	12:05 PM
Under 16 (girls)	3	34	Mon, 13-Mar-2006	Moama Echuca v Warrnambool	Stead Park - No. 3	11:10 AM	12:05 PM
Under 16 (girls)	3	35	Mon, 13-Mar-2006	Swan Hill v Albury Wodonga	Stead Park - No. 2	12:15 PM	1:10 PM
Under 16 (girls)	3	36	Mon, 13-Mar-2006	N.E.S.L. v Bendigo	Stead Park - No. 3	12:15 PM	01:10 PM

GOAL! WEEKLY CLASSIFIEDS • GOAL! WEEKLY CLASSIFIEDS • GOAL! WEEKLY CLASSIFIEDS •

EASTER LIONS SEEKS JUNIOR PLAYERS

Eastern Lions Soccer Club Under 15's Super League team is urgently looking for more boys to strengthen its squad for the upcoming 2006 season.

• Runners up in Under 14's Super League - 2005
• Development pathway to Eastern Lions Senior Team - 2nd State League Players will be strongly linked to our senior club which has a strong focus on developing our junior and youth players.

Please contact Head Coach Tony Merakis on 0407147321 or Vlad Merkin on 0413 300 297 to find out more about this opportunity. Closing day for trials is on the 6th of April, 2006.

PORT MELBOURNE WSC SEEKS KEEPER

Port Melbourne WSC is looking for a shot stopper/goal-keeper for all enquiries contact Therese Duffy on 0418 185 875. Ready to start immediately training at SS Anderson Reserve, Port Melbourne.



GOAL! WEEKLY CLASSIFIEDS

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Need a Coach?

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Monday 13 March

Bayside Football League...With Steve Gray

BAYSIDE PREMIER LEAGUE CLUBS ANNOUNCED



It's now only weeks away from the start of a very promising year for the Bayside League.

The Premier League was introduced last season with great success, and this season could once again be a sizzling experience as no team looking to have an distinctive advantage.

Joining the Premier League for 2006 are three clubs. Bayswater Strikers, Peninsula and Mt Lilydale Old Collegians.

Bayswater Strikers has joined the Premier League after switching leagues from the Amateur League's Premier Division. The club was originally formed in the Women's divisions and has grown considerably in recent years to a point that they now also field men's seniors teams.

Peninsula almost won two league titles last season by first clinching the Division 1 and then just narrowly missing out on the Division 2 title. They have lost a few players over the off season but hopefully they can find new players to help them be competitive in their inaugural Premier League season.

The club that has a big question mark surrounding them is newly formed

Mt Lilydale Old Collegians. They have got the nod to move straight into the Premier League - truth been told with a bit of reluctance - as Endeavour Sports failed to meet the Feb 24th deadline for teams entry.

Still, Endeavour where not even sure they can field two teams and with Mt Lilydale Old Collegians impressive presentation in their bid to join the league plus the fact they want to gain access to the Premier League, the league committee has decided to give the club a go. As mentioned before with a bit of reluctance only because it's like putting somebody straight into the deep end of the pool. It is certainly hoped they can do themselves and the league proud this season.

Over all the Bayside League Premier Division for 2006 looks on paper to be a very strong ten team league with an overall tally of at least 36 Bayside League trophy's that have been collected over the years between all the clubs.

The Bayside League was built to be an alternative, competitive and yet sociable league that clubs and players can enjoy on the weekends. Also the cost are kept to a minimum to ensure that the clubs focus is on the game on not on helping filling in somebody's big pockets. It is a league that is run by the clubs for the clubs.

The Bayside Premier League first round is the 26th March 2006.



Bayswater Strikers
Guy Turner Reserve, Amber Street, Bayswater, 3153, Melways 64 C5
• Newly joined club from the Amateur League.



Boronia Knights
H.V. Jones Reserve, Ashton Rd, Ferntree Gully, Melways 73 G5
• 2 x 1st Tier Champions
• 2 x Sands Hotel Challenge Cup Winners
• 2 x Trophy-Wise League Cup Winners
• 1 x Charity Shield Winners



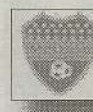
Croydon Ranges
Richard Silcock Reserve, Melways Reference 51 A1. William Road, Croydon
• Yet to win any trophy since joining the Bayside League but have been very close.



Hampton Park United
KM Reedy Reserve, Pound Rd, Hampton Park, 3976
• 1 x 1st Tier Champions
• 2 x 2nd Tier Champions
• 4 x Sands Hotel Challenge Cup Winners
• 2 x Charity Shield Winners



Knox City
Egan Lee Reserve, Wallace Rd, Knoxfield, Map 73 A3
• 1 x Premier Reserve Champs



Mt Lilydale Old Collegians
Mt Lilydale Mercy College, Quarry Rd, Lilydale
• Ambitious New Club



Peninsula
Delacombe Park, Frankston
• Newly Promoted Club
• 1 x 2nd Tier Champions



Pines Condors
Monterey Boulevard, Frankston North, Melways 98 K6
• 1 x Preseason Cup Winners
• 1 x Trophy-Wise League Cup

Winners



Rosebud
Olympic Park, Besgrove St, Rosebud, 3939
• 8 x 1st Tier Champions
• 3 x Sands Hotel Challenge Cup Winners
• 2 x Trophy-Wise League Cup Winners



Western Port Wanderers
Westernport Secondary College, High St, Hastings, 3915
• 1 x 2nd Tier Champions
• 2 x Trophy-Wise League Cup

Winners

Q & A WITH NEW BLOOD OF MONTROSE SC

Montrose Soccer Club started a trend in the Bayside Football Association when they become the first club from the north of the Dandenong Ranges to join the league back in 2003. This was followed up by Croydon Ranges, Bayswater Strikers and Mt Lilydale following the Montrose path to the Bayside League.

Interesting too about Montrose debut season was that they were represented in all four divisions. Only match by Boronia Soccer Club. They finished 2003 9th in the Division 1 - the top tier of the league then - but compensated that with a championship season in the Division 3.

But since then the club has lost players as well as older ones retiring. They did accomplish winning the Division 2 last season, but the Division 1 team struggled all season and only managed one win all season. This has meant a much need injection of youth and enthusiasm into the club to help Montrose steady themselves.

New Vice President of Montrose Ben Greenhow took the time to answer some questions...

Q. Montrose is going through a lot of changes behind doors during the off-season. What has lead to these changes?

A. The club has relied on the older players for such a long time, and the time has come to hand the baton over to the younger players to lead the club forward and beyond. Just a changing of guard.

Q. With Montrose cutting back to two teams will this help bring some stability back into the club?

A. Yes, that's what we are aiming for in 2006. Stability, consistency and to be competitive in all games played. Having a smaller team structure we hope to lift the club / team atmosphere and re-enforce what playing for your clubs badge is all about. Loyalty and commitment

Q. What made you make the decision to put your hand up to become Vice President for 2006?

A. I felt that I could provide Montrose soccer club with something that was lacking. I bring to the table a youthful, enthusiastic approach with a drive to take on a challenge. We have a new committee and coaching set up for 2006, and I'm very confident in the board's ability to reach their goals and to get the job done.

Q. What would you like to see accomplished this season at Montrose?

A. If both teams are competitive and consistent I think we will set a good stepping-stone for the coming seasons and that in itself will be a great accomplishment.

Q. Overall what would you describe the best aspects of Montrose Soccer Club?

A. The ability to make people feel welcome. This is my second season at the club. But I've been made to feel I've been here for a lot longer. It's a relaxed environment that allows you to enjoy the game we all love playing.

Q. What is Montrose soccer clubs long term goals?

A. Long term we would like to grow into a club that can provide a social atmosphere for families and friends. We want to give families the opportunity to all play for the same club, junior boys and girls and senior women. One day I would also like to see the club at the elite end of the BFA in the Premier league.

ALL SENIOR PLAYERS WELCOME. TRAINING 7PM
THURSDAYS @ KEITH HUME FRASER RESERVE, SWANSEA RD, MONTROSE

BSL CHARITY SHIELD DAY

Next weekend Seaford United will be the host for a very special day to help towards some very special causes and to help those who are in need of it.

Three matches will be presented to the public.

11:00 Seaford United v Cerberus (Seaford-Navy Cup)
01:00 Western Port Wanderers v Peninsula (Charity Plaque)
03:00 Hampton Park United v Brighton Old Boys (James Verlander Charity Shield)

Available on the day will be wrist bands with the words "Just do it 4 James". You can very much help out by purchasing the item on the day all in sake of charity.

Last year the charity day was a very much talked about topic at how it effected those involved. \$2500 was donated to the Verlander family where they split the monies towards different charities and other causes including Challenge, Very Special Kids, Bands For the upcoming Charity Day to raise more money and also to young Liam and his family.

Seaford United venue is located at...
North Seaford Reserve,
Railway Parade,
Seaford, 3198
Melway 99 E3,

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HOURS: MON-FRI 10AM-10PM SAT 9AM TO 1PM



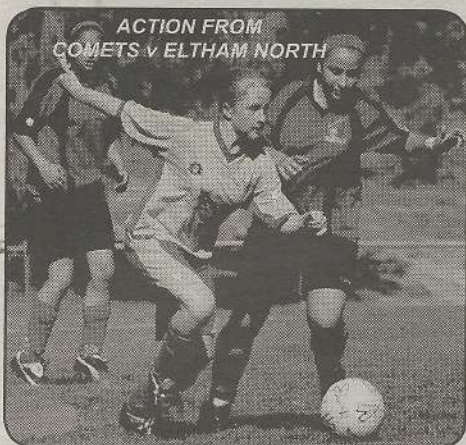
vodafone

WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE

Round 2



WPL WRAP WITH NIKI COOK

ACTION FROM
COMETS V ELTHAM NORTH

Round two of the Vodafone WPL again proved a good one for the away teams, with four of the five victories going to the sides on the road. Despite the intense heat, there was still plenty of action on the park, again producing some high scoring matches.

Despite both teams turning on the style in their opening games, the match between Box Hill Inter and Ashburton was always destined to be a closer affair. Inter

registered the only home victory of the season to date, defeating Ashburton by two goals to one at Wembley Park on Friday night. The result keeps Inter second on the ladder, while Ashburton slips out of the top four.

Even a change of coach couldn't do anything to transform Brimbank's fortunes, as it suffered another heavy defeat at the Italo-Australian Social Club on Saturday. It went down 8-0 to WPL debutante Sandringham, which made it two wins out of two to climb to the top of the ladder and continue its red hot start to the campaign.

After a disappointing defeat to start the season, Preston Lions regrouped quickly to post its first victory of the campaign. It downed its host, Eastern Lions, by two unanswered goals, to leave Eastern still searching for its first points.

Eltham North again showed signs that it could be a competitive force this season, as it kept last year's minor premier Cranbourne Comets goalless at half-time. It again slipped up in the second half, however, conceding twice to relinquish the points. Cranbourne occupies a familiar position near the top of the ladder, while Eltham is still yet to pick up a point.

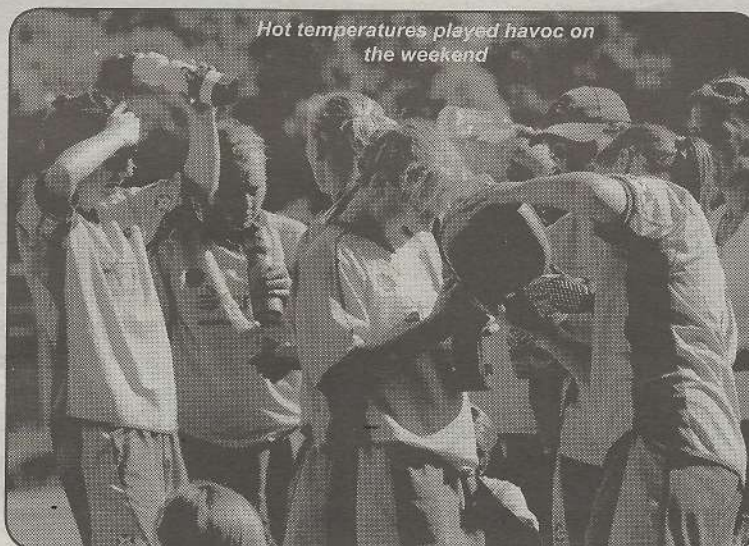
South Melbourne suffered its second successive heavy defeat at home, going down 6-1 to a fast finishing Heidelberg United side. South started brightly, and matched its opponent throughout the first period, taking a one-goal lead into

the break. However, South then capitulated in ten second half minutes, when it conceded three quick-fire goals in the opening exchanges after the restart. Heidelberg then took advantage of the extra space on the field, after both teams were reduced to ten players, to score a further three times without reply.

Keilor Park and Bendigo Vipers escaped the heat, as their match was postponed due to the involvement of the Bendigo players in the Country Championships.

In an abbreviated Round 3, due to the involvement of players in the Mount Gambier tournament, Brimbank will be hoping its third time lucky at the Italo-Australian Social Club, when it hosts Eastern Lions on Saturday. Both teams are still looking for their first point of the season, and will see this as a great chance to achieve it. Sandringham will be aiming to continue its great start to the season as it faces a rested Bendigo Vipers side at RJ Stiltie Reserve, also on Saturday. Keilor Park, which also enjoyed a week's break, takes on South Melbourne at Keilor Park Reserve, while Preston Lions will be looking for its second win of the year against Eltham North at BT Connor Reserve.

By Niki Cook

Hot temperatures played havoc on
the weekend

ROUND 2 RESULTS

BOX HILL - ASHBURTON 2-1
BRIMBANK - SANDRINGHAM 0-8
ELTHAM NTH - CRANBOURNE COMETS 0-2
EASTERN LIONS - PRESTON LIONS 0-2
KEILOR PARK - BENDIGO VIPERS P-P
STH MELBOURNE - HEIDELBERG UNITED 1-6

WPL TABLE

SANDRINGHAM	2	2	0	0	14	0	6
HEIDELBERG	2	2	0	0	10	2	6
BOX HILL INTER	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
COMETS	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
ASHBURTON	2	1	0	1	10	3	3
BENDIGO	1	1	0	0	5	0	3
PRESTON	2	1	0	1	2	6	3
KEILOR PARK	1	0	0	1	1	4	0
EASTERN LIONS	2	0	0	2	1	6	0
ELTHAM NORTH	2	0	0	2	0	6	0
BRIMBANK	2	0	0	2	0	13	0
STH MELBOURNE	2	0	0	2	2	15	0

ROUND THREE FIXTURES

BRIMBANK V EASTERN LIONS

Italo-Australian Social Club,
Sunshine
MEL: 26 E5
Saturday 18th March
KO 1PM

SANDRINGHAM V BENDIGO VIPERS

Spring St Oval, Sandring-
ham
MEL: 77 A12
Saturday 18th March
KO 3PM

KEILOR PARK V SOUTH MELBOURNE

Keilor Park Reserve, Keilor
MEL: 15 B5
Sunday 19th March
KO 1PM

PRESTON LIONS V ELTHAM NORTH

BT Connor Reserve, Preston
MEL: 18 B2
Sunday 19th March
KO 1PM

HEIDELBERG UNITED V BOX HILL INTER

Olympic Village, Heidelberg
Heights
MEL: 19 D11
Sunday 19th March
KO 1PM

CRANBOURNE COMETS V ASHBURTON

Comets Stadium, Cran-
bourne
MEL: 133 G6
Sunday 19th March
KO 1PM



THE TASTE OF THAI
WITH THE SPICE OF
PORT MELBOURNE



Monday 13 March



BOO'S WORLD

A satirical look at the World of Football according to Mark Boric

Well stone the flamin' crows! Or shoot them, or even chuck flares at them, anything to get them off the pitch at Connor Reserve so games can be played there again.

in the A-League, and will join up with his new team in July. This gives the Reds plenty of time to find a replacement, and hopefully they will find one who will arrive more than ten minutes before kick-off in the first game he has to play.

In other A-League related news, the Grand Final was won by Sydney FC. This was as predictable as Chelsea winning the EPL. As was Dwight Yorke winning Man of the Match when he was more like the fifth or sixth best player on the day.

It was a very good spectacle though, marred only during

the week by Rove McManus continually referring to the club as Sydney City on his Rove Live show. Why this NSL diehard couldn't let go of the ethnic past I do not know.

Kevin Muscat won the Melbourne Victory Medal. I hope in his acceptance speech he thanked the club for making it a straight out Player of the Year Award rather than a Best and Fairest Award.

The Lions should get one of their mates from The Wizard of Oz, the Scarecrow, if they only had a brain. Actually the Lion had a brain, it was courage he was lacking. I digress, but Preston should really follow the yellow brick road to get that scarecrow or some munchkins to guard their pitch.

Kingston keeper Michael Turnbull has signed with the New Zealand Knights

The debate continues on whether Arsenal is still an English club. If they are, they are the last one left in contention in the Champions League.

Ernie Merrick has found a Brazilian, who's name is not being disclosed at this point in time. This is because it makes it more of a mystery, and the Club has a better chance of selling memberships whilst he remains a "Mystery Brazilian".



Best: YES
Fairest: Hmm, MAYBE

Once he is named and everyone learns his only claim to fame is having kicked a ball through the window of Ronaldinho's auntie's house when he was twelve, the Brazilian mystique evaporates.

Until next week, I'm off to see the Wizard, the wonderful Wizard of Oz.

ON THE BOX

The FFV Football Show
Channel 31
Wednesday, 9pm
Featuring Vodafone Cup highlights of Essendon Royals v South Melbourne Heidelberg United v Green Gully

The Green Gully Soccer Show
Channel 31
Saturdays, 10.30am

EPL, TBA v TBA
Fox Sports 1
Wednesday 15th March, 7am

Champions League, Inter v Ajax
ESPN
Wednesday 15th March, 6.30am

FA CUP, West Ham v Bolton
ESPN
Thursday 16th March, 7am

EPL, Everton v Aston Villa
Fox Sports 1
Saturday 18th March, 11.45pm

EPL, Man City v Wigan
Fox Sports 1
Sunday 19th March, 2am

EPL, Birmingham v Tottenham
Fox Sports 1
Sunday 19th March, 4.15am

The World Game
SBS
Sundays, 2pm - 5.30pm

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FOOTBALL FUNNY

Q: What is the difference between Bill Clinton and Victory striker Daniel Allsopp?

A: Clinton can score.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Kevin Muscat.
2. Bubbles.
3. Fowler & Melbourne.
4. Izurua Chukwuka.
5. Leicester City.
6. True.
7. New York Cosmos.
8. Ronald Koeman.
9. Heidelberg's Phil.
10. No.

ON THE AIRWAVES

The Sunday Roast Show
Casey Radio 97.7FM
Sunday, 2-5pm
Featuring coverage of the Vodafone Cup with Paul Jefferies.

The 90th Minute
SEN 1116
Sundays 5pm onwards
With Michael Zappone and former Soccerroo legend Paul Trimboli.

Monday Night Football
96.5 Inner FM
Mondays 8pm
Featuring coverage of the Vodafone Cup with John Canaglia.

QUICK QUIZ

1. Which player won the Victory medal during the week?
2. What is one forever blowing in Chelsea's theme song?
3. Essendon's new signing Henry Fa'Arodo has also played for which two other Vodafone Cup sides?
4. Green Gully has signed which exciting forward from State League Division One side Bentleigh Greens?
5. Soccerroo 'keeper Zelko Kalac once played with which English Championship side?
6. True or false? Sydney FC have released marque player Dwight Yorke from its playing roster for next season's A-league.
7. Which team did Pele play for in the North American Soccer League?
8. Who is the coach of Portuguese giants Benfica?
9. Name the Victorian State team coach which toured China last week?
10. Is there any football contested in the Commonwealth Games?

Quiz answers...Look to the right of this page

GiveMeFootball

96.5 Inner FM Mondays 8pm

Vodafone Cup
Monday Night Football
with John Caniglia

YESTERDAY'S HEROES.....LES SHORROCK

If you followed football in Victoria before the age of the electronic information revolution you'd be well aware of the name Les Shorrock.

Les was a legend of his time and a true soccer disciple who would lug his camera bag from ground to ground taking photos of the old NSL and State League games for "The Age" and the legendary "Soccer Action" newspaper.

He was quite a prominent figure, always recognisable with his distinctive tartan cap and large frame, swaggering with his gear around the touchlines of your Middle Park's, Olympic Park's and BT Connor Reserves.

With the wave of popularity the code is experiencing at the moment soccer now receives a generous amount of coverage in today's 'papers. Back in the "old days" however soccer struggled to gain any consistent decent space in Melbourne's metropolitan daily newspapers, and niche publications like "Soccer Action" basically provided the only real dose of intelligent and informative news on the round ball game for local soccer starved fans.



Les today at his home in Ringwood

For many years he was also the voice you'd tune into on 3EA at six o'clock on a Saturday and a Sunday to hear him and fellow presenter Jose Montes provide a round up of all the weekend's soccer results. This was followed by a full program on Mondays that would analyse the weekend's fixtures in more detail.

I remember when I was growing up I'd religiously listen to their show on my Walkman whilst mowing the lawn or doing chores around the house.

Jose was originally from Argentina and Les from England. In 1982 when their show was at its peak it was the year of the World Cup in Spain and also the year of the Falklands War. To many listeners in Melbourne it was quite surreal to have two people sharing a microphone and complementing each other so well, talking about football in general, whilst half way across the world their two respective nations were bombing the living daylight out of one another. Trust football to find a common ground in such delicate times. Above all, it was perhaps an indication of their professionalism and a demonstration of their dedication to the sport.

Shortly after "Soccer Action" was wound up, leaving the local soccer world in utter shock; Les decided to pick up the reigns and launched "Soccer Star" in a bid to fill the massive vacuum left by its predecessor. The first time I met Les was when I was a seventeen year old. I was still at school and a huge fan of his work. Like a lot of soccer mad teenagers of that era I would practically buy every soccer mag my local newsagent had to offer. Shoot!, Soccer Monthly, Roy of the Rovers and of course, Soccer Action and Soccer Star were normally on my shopping list just to name a few. The latter holding pride of place in my collection in the garage because it dealt with players I would go and watch with my dad on weekends.

One day I actually replied to an ad in Soccer Star when it was looking for match reporter and to my surprise I got a call from a certain Mr. Les Shorrock. A little more than a week later



Jose Montes and Les Shorrock in the Radio 3EA studio back in 1982

I couldn't believe my ears when my mum called me to the phone and that same distinct, firm, respected and authoritative voice that I would listen to on my Walkman was actually addressing me down my very own phone line and telling me that 'I'd got the job'.

For the next two years I was in football heaven. I followed Les around like a little puppy from stadium to stadium and back to "The Age" offices in Lonsdale Street to make the deadlines. I'd watch in awe, seeing him in action and how tomorrow's sports pages were put together.

On numerous occasions during the week the phone would ring again and it would be Les asking where my match report is. "You know it's a weekly, not a monthly" he would half jokingly say.

After a little bit of liquid paper here and there off I'd go on my bike to fax my report from the local newsagent.

I'm often asked on my soccer travels around Melbourne's football grounds how Les is keeping these days.

Well, recently I actually caught up with him in his home in Ringwood.

Although he's basically homeward

bound these days, he has written the occasional few bits and pieces here and there, but generally he's just enjoying life in retirement and spending quality time with his grandchildren and wife, Eileen, whilst following football from a distance.

The mind is still as sharp as ever even although his once large goalkeeping frame seems to have seen better days.

It would be fair to say that Goal! Weekly, with all its obvious shortfalls, although that's more to do with me as the Editor than a reflection of what Les taught me, will be forever in debt to the man for generously passing on so much knowledge that has held us in good stead up until today.

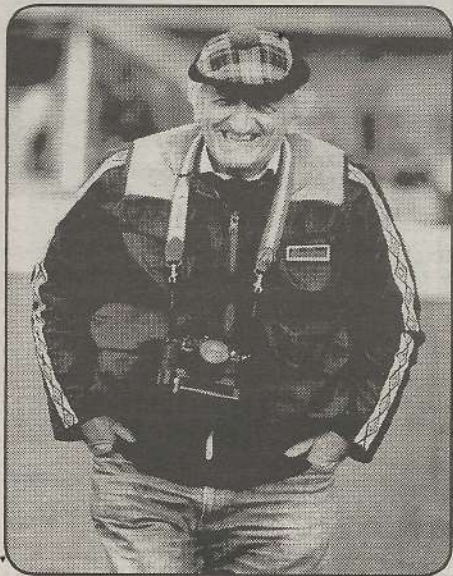
Below is an extract from Les' book "My Charmed Life" which he's kindly allowed us to reproduce, telling the tale of what happened in those last fateful days at the soccer icon that was "Soccer Action".

By Costa Koutropoulos, GW Editor.

THE LIFE AND DEATH OF A NEWSPAPER

The sad story of "Soccer Action"

In November 1975, Laurie Schwab, Soccer writer for Melbourne's "The Age", approached the newspaper's management with the suggestion that they launch a national newspaper devoted to Soccer. He argued that the time was ripe as moves were already afoot to form a National Soccer League that would include clubs from not only Melbourne but Sydney, Adelaide Brisbane and Newcastle as well. Good circulation was assured. Much to Schwab's surprise (he admitted later), his suggestion met with approval and he was told to go ahead and pick a team to produce a 16 page newspaper in time for the start of the 1976 season.



His first choice as assistant editor was a young journalist, later to make his name in television, Kyle Patterson, but after first accepting the job he instead decided to seek his fortune in London. Then Laurie turned to an official of the Victorian Soccer Federation, George Yelland who

politely turned him down saying he was too busy, but George recommended that Laurie approach me. At the time, George and I were producing a six-page weekly newsletter for the Metropolitan and Provisional Leagues called "Goalpost". Nevertheless, when Laurie asked me to join him at "The Age", I was more than pleased to accept.

The first issue of "Soccer Action" appeared on February 4, 1976 with its lead story being an announcement by the Chairman of the Victorian State League, Sam Papasavas, that clubs in the State League would not be joining the new National League. However, opposition in Victoria to the new League quickly collapsed when it was learned that Tom Bailey, President of State League club Mooroolbark, had defied Papasavas' edict and applied for membership of the fledgling National League. This set off a rush from the other State League clubs, anxious not to be left behind and eventually no fewer than seven applied for NSL membership.

In its early days "Soccer Action" was produced by a staff of two, i.e. Laurie Schwab and me, and we worked very hard to find our feet. Laurie was always a demon for work and on Mondays we had to be at the office by 4.30 am. Thirty-odd years ago, working in the editorial office was very labour-intensive and I can still recall making numerous trips to the telex office, collecting match reports from our interstate colleagues and taking them back to my desk to type them into their relevant pages. After our first year our burden was lightened considerably as our staff of two was doubled by the addition of cadet reporter Craig Mackenzie and advertising rep Billy Vojtek. But the legwork increased as we were moved out of the "Age" building and around the corner into an office in Little Lonsdale Street. Produced there, in a rabbit-warren of small rooms were fourteen or more sporting publications covering motor racing, greyhound and trotting racing, and all the other pursuits that "The Age" considered minor compared with the almighty Aussie Rules.



It didn't take me long to appreciate that an anti-Soccer culture flourished at "The Age" which came home to me more forcibly when I started taking pictures at soccer matches.

Soccer was being played then in the same season of the year as Aussie Rules and staff photographers were allocated by the Pictorial Editor to all the Rules games in Melbourne, but not to Soccer matches. As we were starved of pictures, I started taking them myself and every Monday morning I would take a roll of film into the Photography dark room and humbly ask the manager if he would have them developed for me. Invariably I would go back a few hours later only to be told by the dark-room staff had been too busy and my roll would have to wait. That was useless to us, because, unlike "The Age" itself which was printed in its own building, "Soccer Action" was printed in Frankston and all the copy had to be sent there by courier and set up overnight. At the time, I hadn't the vaguest idea of how to develop and print a roll of film, but then, as I was trying one Monday morning to get the manager to see the problem, a staff photographer stepped in and said, 'I'll show you what to do' and proceeded to give me my first lesson.

His name is Kevin Schreiber and I am forever in his debt and he was uppermost in my thoughts when I went up at the NSL Annual

Awards night in 1980 to collect the NSL Photographer of the Year Award. Kevin Schreiber is no longer with "The Age", but I'll never forget him, because that day altered my life as I went on to take pictures for "The Age" until I retired in 1996.

As the 1986 season was about to kick off, Laurie Schwab shocked us by announcing he was quitting the paper as he no longer wanted to write about soccer only and he had been offered the job of Education correspondent for "The Age". Len Shaw, editor of magazines, asked whether we were prepared to keep the paper going, and Craig Mackenzie replied that he would be happy to replace Schwab as editor provided I stayed. In the previous year we had been joined by a young fellow named John Mangan who showed promise as a writer so we felt we could cope as well as ever. So as we finished the 1986 season with issue No. 45 for the year, we had a certain feeling of satisfaction that we had weathered the storm. We kicked off Volume No. 12 on January 28, 1987 blithely unaware of what was to follow.

Before the copy the printers we were called into Shaw's office and told that the paper had "died". Craig and John both left "The Age", Craig eventually joining "Lonely Planet" (the backpackers' bible) and John, I think got a job in Sydney, I stayed at at "The Age" as a photographer and Real Estate copywriter until I retired in 1996.

It's no exaggeration to say that everyone who followed the game missed "Soccer Action" and the ones who missed it the most were the Juniors because we always devoted the two centre pages to Junior results and tables and they relied heavily on Soccer Action for accurate information.

R.I.P Soccer Action

By Les Shorrock

Monday 13 March

WANDERING STAR JOINS WAVERLEY

Waverley Wanderers may be swimming with the big boys for the first time in State League Two South East this season, but the club hasn't been content to simply tread water over the summer.

Waverley recently made a big splash in the preseason with the news that former NSL goal keeper Jim Kourtis will be anchoring its defence this year. 33 year old Kourtis has almost 150 NSL games under his belt and a string of best and fairest awards at virtually all the clubs he has played for including Brunswick Juventus, Gippsland Falcons, Heidelberg Warriors and most recently with Kingston City.

Kourtis has declined to publicly discuss the circumstances surrounding his sudden departure from Kingston City just days prior to their Vodafone Cup debut in early February. Meanwhile Kingston responded by refusing Kourtis's request for a free transfer to a lower division club.

From a group of keen suitors that included Western Suburbs and South Springvale, Waverley Wanderers emerged as the front runner for the keeper's services. As the Wanderer's treasurer John Cordoulis explains, the club was able to find sponsors to put up the \$ 5000 required to release Kourtis from his Kingston contract. Cordoulis was also keen to emphasize that the payment did not come out of the club's annual budget.

Kourtis cites a number of reasons for his decision to join the Wanderers, location be-

ing one of them. "I'm a Clayton boy, a local boy, so it's close to home. I've got two young kids. It fits into the regime."

A number of Kourtis's family and friends are connected with the small suburban club. Brother Arthur Kourtis coached the seniors to a title in 2004, prior to the arrival of current coach John Kennedy and a few of the current thirds team are old high school friends of Jim Kourtis.

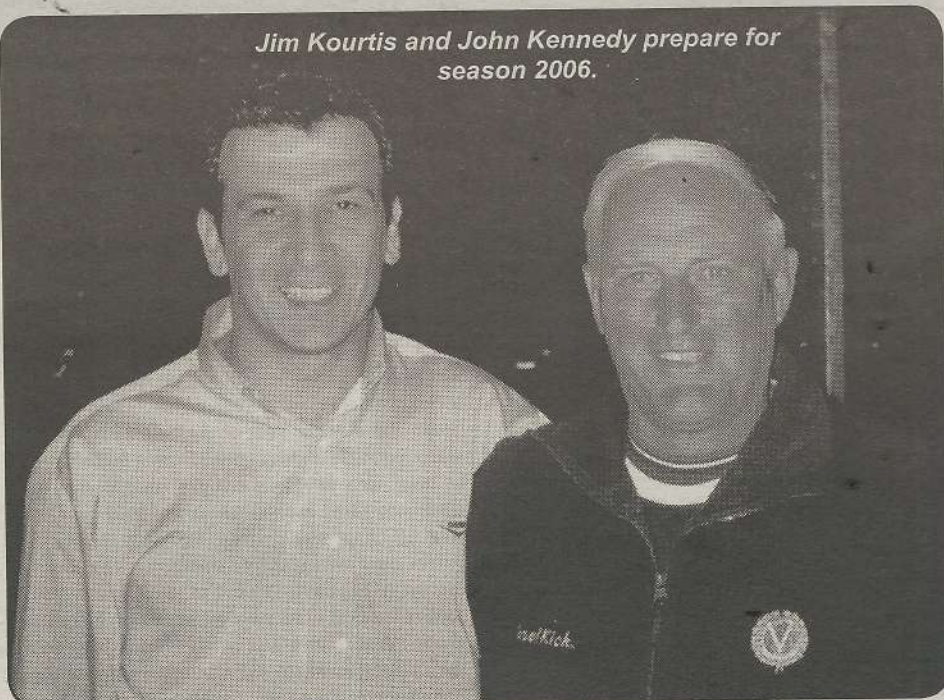
Kourtis also believes in the club's future prospects saying, "They have been promoted two years in a row. They're trying to get some good foundations in all areas whether it be juniors and up through the ranks."

Senior coach Kennedy believes Kourtis's arrival will have a great impact at the club.

"When the club picks up a player of that quality it has to be a massive bonus. When they first spoke to me about it, I was over the moon. I thought it was a great signing. He's just going to add a massive lift to the defence, because he'll get people to communicate. His kicking of the ball is phenomenal so he'll actually start attacks as well as stop them. In reality, he could be worth between six and nine points during the course of the season" said Kennedy.

Kennedy, a former keeper himself believes Kourtis's presence around the club will benefit not only the seniors but other teams at the club as well. "A man of Jim's experience can only help younger keepers to be honest. One of the things I would like to see

Jim Kourtis and John Kennedy prepare for season 2006.



and I'm sure it will happen, he may work with all the young keepers and pass on his experience."

As well as his goalkeeping ability, Kourtis brings valuable leadership qualities to the Wanderers having captained Kingston City to success in both his seasons there. He believes that success on the park "starts from the board all the way down, getting the proper people in, setting proper foundations for the club, getting the right atmosphere for the players and coaching staff and all pushing towards one direction."

He adds that, "Once you get a few results on the board, confidence starts to build. I think confidence is a wonderful thing and once that starts to happen, things just start happening for you naturally and the expectations starts to kick in that we're not going to get beaten and that just has a flow on effect."

Meanwhile, Waverley's preseason keeps rolling along, with the club looking forward to the challenge of proving it is no longer a football minnow.

By George Stogiannou

GOAL!
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BACK FOR 2006
OUT MONDAYS

Goal! Weekly.
5-a-Side Tournament
Hosted by Riversdale Soccer Club
March 26 2006

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How To Enter

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Fax >> 03 9544 4255

Post >> Goal Weekly 5-a-Side, c/o 14 Cotswold Close, Vermont, 3133

(all entries must be received by Wednesday, March 15)

Date & Time: Sunday 26th March 2006 from 10.00 am

Venue: Frog Hollow Reserve, Fordham Avenue, Camberwell (Melways 60 B3)

Cost: \$200 per team (payment will be required prior to tournament. Upon you team being accepted, we will forward payment details to you)

Games: Each team guaranteed at least 4 x 16 minute games

Teams: Maximum of 10 players per squad (minimum 5, recommended 7-8)

TEAM NAME	
CONTACT PERSON	
POSTAL ADDRESS	
CONTACT PHONE NUMBER	
EMAIL ADDRESS	



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If currently playing at a football club: _____

Parents name and approval signature: _____

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pay on registration day 27/3/06 (please be present 1/2 before session time)
ASFA football kit optional extra-ALL THIS FOR ONLY \$55.

Includes Football Shirt, Bag, Leather all weather ball and a drink bottle.



STATE LEAGUE THREE S/E

Fixtures



Round 1

1 Apr 06 3:00PM Heatherton United v Nunawading City Parkfield Reserve
1 Apr 06 3:00PM Berwick City v Morwell Pegasus Jack Thomas Reserve
1 Apr 06 3:00PM Monbulk v Fitzroy City Monbulk Recreation Reserve
1 Apr 06 3:00PM Mooroolbark v Sandringham City Esther Park Reserve
1 Apr 06 3:00PM Endeavour United v Templestowe Eagles Reema Reserve
2 Apr 06 3:00PM North Caulfield v Frankston Strikers To Be Confirmed

Round 2

8 Apr 06 3:00PM Sandringham City v Endeavour United RJ Sillitoe Reserve
8 Apr 06 3:00PM Fitzroy City v Mooroolbark Fairfield Park
8 Apr 06 3:00PM Morwell Pegasus v Monbulk Ronald Reserve
8 Apr 06 3:00PM Frankston Strikers v Heatherton United Centenary Park
8 Apr 06 3:00PM Nunawading City v Berwick City Mahoneys Road Reserve
9 Apr 06 3:00PM Templestowe Eagles v North Caulfield Wilson Reserve

Round 3

22 Apr 06 3:00PM Berwick City v Heatherton United Jack Thomas Reserve
22 Apr 06 3:00PM Monbulk v Nunawading City Monbulk Recreation Reserve
22 Apr 06 3:00PM Mooroolbark v Morwell Pegasus Esther Park Reserve
22 Apr 06 3:00PM Endeavour United v Fitzroy City Reema Reserve
22 Apr 06 3:00PM Templestowe Eagles v Frankston Strikers Wilson Reserve
23 Apr 06 3:00PM North Caulfield v Sandringham City To Be Confirmed

Round 4

29 Apr 06 3:00PM Sandringham City v Templestowe Eagles RJ Sillitoe Reserve
29 Apr 06 3:00PM Morwell Pegasus v Endeavour United Ronald Reserve
29 Apr 06 3:00PM Frankston Strikers v Berwick City Centenary Park
29 Apr 06 3:00PM Nunawading City v Mooroolbark Mahoneys Road Reserve
29 Apr 06 3:00PM Heatherton United v Monbulk Parkfield Reserve
30 Apr 06 3:00PM Fitzroy City v North Caulfield Fairfield Park

Round 5

6 May 06 3:00PM Monbulk v Berwick City Monbulk Recreation Reserve
6 May 06 3:00PM Mooroolbark v Heatherton United Esther Park Reserve
6 May 06 3:00PM Endeavour United v Nunawading City Reema Reserve
6 May 06 3:00PM Templestowe Eagles v Fitzroy City Wilson Reserve
6 May 06 3:00PM Sandringham City v Frankston Strikers RJ Sillitoe Reserve
7 May 06 3:00PM North Caulfield v Morwell Pegasus To Be Confirmed

Round 6

13 May 06 3:00PM Fitzroy City v Sandringham City Fairfield Park
13 May 06 3:00PM Morwell Pegasus v Templestowe Eagles Ronald Reserve
13 May 06 3:00PM Frankston Strikers v Monbulk Centenary Park
13 May 06 3:00PM Heatherton United v Endeavour United Parkfield Reserve
13 May 06 3:00PM Berwick City v Mooroolbark Jack Thomas Reserve
14 May 06 3:00PM Nunawading City v North Caulfield Mahoneys Road Reserve

Round 7

20 May 06 3:00PM Mooroolbark v Monbulk Esther Park Reserve
20 May 06 3:00PM Endeavour United v Berwick City Reema Reserve
20 May 06 3:00PM Templestowe Eagles v Nunawading City Wilson Reserve
20 May 06 3:00PM Sandringham City v Morwell Pegasus RJ Sillitoe Reserve
20 May 06 3:00PM Fitzroy City v Frankston Strikers Fairfield Park
21 May 06 3:00PM North Caulfield v Heatherton United To Be Confirmed

Round 8

27 May 06 3:00PM Morwell Pegasus v Fitzroy City Ronald Reserve
27 May 06 3:00PM Frankston Strikers v Mooroolbark Centenary Park
27 May 06 3:00PM Nunawading City v Sandringham City Mahoneys Road Reserve
27 May 06 3:00PM Heatherton United v Templestowe Eagles Parkfield Reserve
27 May 06 3:00PM Monbulk v Endeavour United Monbulk Recreation Reserve
28 May 06 3:00PM Berwick City v North Caulfield Jack Thomas Reserve

Round 9

3 Jun 06 3:00PM Endeavour United v Mooroolbark Reema Reserve
3 Jun 06 3:00PM Templestowe Eagles v Berwick City Wilson Reserve
3 Jun 06 3:00PM Sandringham City v Heatherton United RJ Sillitoe Reserve
3 Jun 06 3:00PM Fitzroy City v Nunawading City Fairfield Park
3 Jun 06 3:00PM Morwell Pegasus v Frankston Strikers Ronald Reserve
4 Jun 06 3:00PM North Caulfield v Monbulk To Be Confirmed

Round 10

10 Jun 06 3:00PM Endeavour United v Frankston Strikers Reema Reserve
10 Jun 06 3:00PM Nunawading City v Morwell Pegasus Mahoneys Road Reserve
10 Jun 06 3:00PM Berwick City v Sandringham City Jack Thomas Reserve
10 Jun 06 3:00PM Monbulk v Templestowe Eagles Monbulk Recreation Reserve
10 Jun 06 3:00PM Heatherton United v Fitzroy City Parkfield Reserve
11 Jun 06 3:00PM Mooroolbark v North Caulfield Esther Park Reserve

Round 11

17 Jun 06 3:00PM Templestowe Eagles v Mooroolbark Wilson Reserve
17 Jun 06 3:00PM Sandringham City v Monbulk RJ Sillitoe Reserve
17 Jun 06 3:00PM Fitzroy City v Berwick City Fairfield Park
17 Jun 06 3:00PM Morwell Pegasus v Heatherton United Ronald Reserve
17 Jun 06 3:00PM Frankston Strikers v Nunawading City Centenary Park
18 Jun 06 3:00PM North Caulfield v Endeavour United To Be Confirmed

Round 12

24 Jun 06 3:00PM Nunawading City v Heatherton United Mahoneys Road Reserve
24 Jun 06 3:00PM Morwell Pegasus v Berwick City Ronald Reserve
24 Jun 06 3:00PM Fitzroy City v Monbulk Fairfield Park
24 Jun 06 3:00PM Sandringham City v Mooroolbark RJ Sillitoe Reserve
24 Jun 06 3:00PM Templestowe Eagles v Endeavour United Wilson Reserve
25 Jun 06 3:00PM Frankston Strikers v North Caulfield Centenary Park

Round 13

1 Jul 06 3:00PM Endeavour United v Sandringham City Reema Reserve
1 Jul 06 3:00PM Mooroolbark v Fitzroy City Esther Park Reserve
1 Jul 06 3:00PM Monbulk v Morwell Pegasus Monbulk Recreation Reserve
1 Jul 06 3:00PM Heatherton United v Frankston Strikers Parkfield Reserve
1 Jul 06 3:00PM Berwick City v Nunawading City Jack Thomas Reserve
2 Jul 06 3:00PM North Caulfield v Templestowe Eagles To Be Confirmed

Round 14

8 Jul 06 3:00PM Heatherton United v Berwick City Parkfield Reserve
8 Jul 06 3:00PM Nunawading City v Monbulk Mahoneys Road Reserve
8 Jul 06 3:00PM Morwell Pegasus v Mooroolbark Ronald Reserve
8 Jul 06 3:00PM Fitzroy City v Endeavour United Fairfield Park
8 Jul 06 3:00PM Frankston Strikers v Templestowe Eagles Centenary Park
9 Jul 06 3:00PM Sandringham City v North Caulfield RJ Sillitoe Reserve

Round 15

15 Jul 06 3:00PM Templestowe Eagles v Sandringham City Wilson Reserve
15 Jul 06 3:00PM Endeavour United v Morwell Pegasus Reema Reserve
15 Jul 06 3:00PM Berwick City v Frankston Strikers Jack Thomas Reserve
15 Jul 06 3:00PM Mooroolbark v Nunawading City Esther Park Reserve
15 Jul 06 3:00PM Monbulk v Heatherton United Monbulk Recreation Reserve
16 Jul 06 3:00PM North Caulfield v Fitzroy City To Be Confirmed

Round 16

22 Jul 06 3:00PM Berwick City v Monbulk Jack Thomas Reserve
22 Jul 06 3:00PM Heatherton United v Mooroolbark Parkfield Reserve
22 Jul 06 3:00PM Nunawading City v Endeavour United Mahoneys Road Reserve
22 Jul 06 3:00PM Fitzroy City v Templestowe Eagles Fairfield Park
22 Jul 06 3:00PM Frankston Strikers v Sandringham City Centenary Park
23 Jul 06 3:00PM Morwell Pegasus v North Caulfield Ronald Reserve

Round 17

29 Jul 06 3:00PM Sandringham City v Fitzroy City RJ Sillitoe Reserve
29 Jul 06 3:00PM Templestowe Eagles v Morwell Pegasus Wilson Reserve
29 Jul 06 3:00PM Monbulk v Frankston Strikers Monbulk Recreation Reserve
29 Jul 06 3:00PM Endeavour United v Heatherton United Reema Reserve
29 Jul 06 3:00PM Mooroolbark v Berwick City Esther Park Reserve
30 Jul 06 3:00PM North Caulfield v Nunawading City To Be Confirmed

Round 18

5 Aug 06 3:00PM Monbulk v Mooroolbark Monbulk Recreation Reserve
5 Aug 06 3:00PM Berwick City v Endeavour United Jack Thomas Reserve
5 Aug 06 3:00PM Nunawading City v Templestowe Eagles Mahoneys Road Reserve
5 Aug 06 3:00PM Morwell Pegasus v Sandringham City Ronald Reserve
5 Aug 06 3:00PM Frankston Strikers v Fitzroy City Centenary Park
6 Aug 06 3:00PM Heatherton United v North Caulfield Parkfield Reserve

Round 19

19 Aug 06 3:00PM Fitzroy City v Morwell Pegasus Fairfield Park
19 Aug 06 3:00PM Mooroolbark v Frankston Strikers Esther Park Reserve
19 Aug 06 3:00PM Sandringham City v Nunawading City RJ Sillitoe Reserve
19 Aug 06 3:00PM Templestowe Eagles v Heatherton United Wilson Reserve
19 Aug 06 3:00PM Endeavour United v Monbulk Reema Reserve
20 Aug 06 3:00PM North Caulfield v Berwick City To Be Confirmed

Round 20

26 Aug 06 3:00PM Mooroolbark v Endeavour United Esther Park Reserve
26 Aug 06 3:00PM Berwick City v Templestowe Eagles Jack Thomas Reserve
26 Aug 06 3:00PM Heatherton United v Sandringham City Parkfield Reserve
26 Aug 06 3:00PM Nunawading City v Fitzroy City Mahoneys Road Reserve
26 Aug 06 3:00PM Frankston Strikers v Morwell Pegasus Centenary Park
27 Aug 06 3:00PM Monbulk v North Caulfield Monbulk Recreation Reserve

Round 21

2 Sep 06 3:00PM Frankston Strikers v Endeavour United Centenary Park
2 Sep 06 3:00PM Morwell Pegasus v Nunawading City Ronald Reserve
2 Sep 06 3:00PM Sandringham City v Berwick City RJ Sillitoe Reserve
2 Sep 06 3:00PM Templestowe Eagles v Monbulk Wilson Reserve
2 Sep 06 3:00PM Fitzroy City v Heatherton United Fairfield Park
3 Sep 06 3:00PM North Caulfield v Mooroolbark To Be Confirmed

Round 22

9 Sep 06 3:00PM Mooroolbark v Templestowe Eagles Esther Park Reserve
9 Sep 06 3:00PM Monbulk v Sandringham City Monbulk Recreation Reserve
9 Sep 06 3:00PM Berwick City v Fitzroy City Jack Thomas Reserve
9 Sep 06 3:00PM Heatherton United v Morwell Pegasus Parkfield Reserve
9 Sep 06 3:00PM Nunawading City v Frankston Strikers Mahoneys Road Reserve
10 Sep 06 3:00PM Endeavour United v North Caulfield Reema Reserve

Draw Notes:

NO MATCHES 15/16 April 2006 - Easter Weekend

Catch-Up Round 12/13 August 2006 - FFV will notify clubs playing on this weekend

Match Grounds

Parkfield Reserve: Dunblane Road, Noble Park (89 G1)
Jack Thomas Reserve: Fox Road, Narre Warren North (108 E9)
Monbulk Recreation Reserve: Moores Road, Monbulk (124 H1)
Esther Park Reserve: Esther Crescent, Mooroolbark (37 E11)
Reema Reserve: Stacey Court, Endeavour Hills (91 H3)
RJ Sillitoe Reserve: Cnr Olive/Ludston St, Hampton (77 A5)
Fairfield Park: Yarra Bend Road, Fairfield (30 H12)
Ronald Reserve: Vary Street, Morwell
Centenary Park: McClelland Dve, Frankston (103 E1)
Mahoneys Roda Reserve: Mahoneys Road, Forest Hill (62 C4)
Wilson Reserve: Wilson Rd, Doncaster (32 K10)

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